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Time to decolonize

B.C. Supreme Court upholds Aboriginal title to 200,000 hectares

Tim Lindsay

The B.C. government cannot ignore constitutionally recognized Aboriginal rights as a tactic to get First Nations to enter into treaty negotiations.

That message came from B.C. Supreme Court Justice David Vickers in a Nov. 21 ruling that confirms the Tsilhqot'in (also called Chilcotin) First Nation collectively hold Aboriginal title to some 200,000 hectares of their traditional territory west of Williams Lake.

"What is clear to me is that the impoverished view of Aboriginal title advanced by Canada and British Columbia ... cannot be allowed to pervade and inhibit genuine negotiations," the decision reads.

"Over the years, British Columbia has either denied the existence of Aboriginal title and rights or established policy that Aboriginal title and rights could only be addressed or considered at treaty negotiations ... British Columbia has refused to acknowledge title and rights during the process of consultation. Consequently, the pleas of the Tsilhqot'in people have been ignored."

Roger William, plaintiff in the court case and Chief of the Xeni Gwet'in, one of six Tsilhqot'in bands, said that the work of his predecessors helped lead to this pivotal decision.

"First Nations across B.C. lobbied, road-blocked and used the courts – that's why we have rights and title today," said William.

He also thanked other citizens and groups. "It's people like you — who believe in First Nations — I always say that we can't do this alone and that you guys are a big part of this decision that came down."

TIM LINDSAY PHOTO

Chief Roger William, left, sings a traditional song at an event in the David Lam Auditorium Friday evening.

While the court did not recognize Aboriginal title over the entire area of land claimed, William said his people still assert that they must be involved in decisions affecting their traditional territories.

"We're a First Nations people. We're also a government. That is really important, to believe in yourself. And that's where we're really coming from — to say this is our country, this is our government."

The 470-page court ruling includes a section on the history of the Tsilhqot'in people. The fur trade changed Tsilhqot'in trading patterns, Christian missionaries influenced their spirituality and smallpox and other diseases brought by colonizers decimated their population. Canadian laws required them to restrict their movements across the land and become farmers. Tsilhqot'in children were taken from their families and forced into residential schools.

"The present Canadian community is now faced with the challenge of acknowledging past wrongs and of building a consensual and lasting reconciliation with Aboriginal people," the decision reads. "My hope is that this judgment will shine new light on the path of reconciliation that lies ahead."

The court ruled that the B.C. Forest Act — which empowers the Ministry of Forests to govern logging in B.C. — generally applies only to "crown land," not to Aboriginal title lands. The federal government, not B.C., has the jurisdiction to pass laws concerning aboriginal title lands, the court ruled.

In addition to 200,000 hectares of Aboriginal title, which "confers a right to the land itself, and the right to determine how it will be used," the court also recognized a Tsilhqot'in Aboriginal right to hunt and trap on lands extending beyond their title lands.

See Ruling protects, p. 2

Former prof warns against genetic testing

Edward Ishiguro says accuracy, relevance lacking in many commercially offered tests

Melanie Tromp

Stephen Hawking wants his genetic code read in the hopes that a cure for his Lou Gehrig's disease may be found. Larry King thinks the test to read his genetic code may help deter his next heart attack. But the scientific jury is still out on the revolutionary process of genetic testing, one that many geneticists don't yet understand themselves.

In a public lecture at the Jewish Community Centre on Nov. 24, retired UVic professor Edward Ishiguro warned that mass-marketed genetic testing needs to be approached cautiously.

The original human genome project was completed in 2003 after roughly 12 years of mapping the DNA of 20 cell donors to create a mosaic model. A more complete genome map from just one donor was released this past summer and is available for free on the Internet.

Ishiguro was speaking to a crowd of 20 about the controversial human genome project's impact on the future of health care. He also weighed in on the debate surrounding the impending genetic "crystal ball," noting that buyers should beware.

"Some new genetic tests are trying to sell you something you may not need," said Ishiguro, "and these tests are not exactly cheap."

On Nov. 16, Icelandic company Decode Genetics announced the upcoming launch of its deCODEme service, a program that will reportedly assess an individual's disease risk, genealogical origins and physical characteristics for a quick $985 and a simple cheek swab.

The Icelandic model is powered by computer chips that will test a person's data at one million points sites along the genome and then compare notes with databases of disease prototypes to test for any of the 20 diseases that this type of diagnostic testing has been known to determine.

"Unless you're extraordinarily rich and stupid you won't do this," joked Ishiguro, who noted that this brand of testing has limitations in terms of accuracy.

Two other companies — one of which is financed by Google — are expected to launch similar customized analytical equipment to test the whole genome within months.

The human genome project has proffered two avenues of testing — one that can determine if a person carries the genes that guarantee getting the disease and is highly effective (such as a Toronto-based test for cystic fibrosis) and another kind — deCODEme — that simply assesses a person's possibility of getting a particular disease, at a high cost.

"The vast majority of tests that we have simply look at risk," said Ishiguro.

See Brave new world, p. 2

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Ruling protects boreal forests

"This is a momentous decision to protect the boreal forests of Canada," said Jack Woodward, legal council for the Tsilhqot'in.

Woodward said the court's interpretation of the Aboriginal right to hunt and trap means "wildlife and the habitat must be managed to ensure meaningful continuation of those rights."

The boreal forest extends across northern Canada including much of the Yukon, the Northwest Territories, northern B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, and large portions of Ontario and Quebec.

"It's one of the largest — perhaps the largest — intact forests in the world," said Woodward.

"That's not an empty wilderness. That's full of Aboriginal People who carry on their traditional life as trappers. Throughout the boreal forest many of those people have either the Aboriginal right to hunt and trap or the treaty right to hunt and trap."

Those rights are protected from infringement unless that infringement is justified, which requires that government understand the needs of aboriginal peoples and study wildlife populations and the habitat requirements of each species, said Woodward.

Case excerpts: What the Supreme Court said

On when colonization ("asserted sovereignty") became official

"I am not persuaded that private adventurers or commissioned officers of His Majesty's Royal Navy, even with their best intentions, can to the degree required by international law, assert sovereignty over vast territories by planting a flag and speaking to the utter silence of the mountains and boreal forests. They are, in my view, just words blowing in the wind. There is no reason to doubt the sincerity of Captain Vancouver's solemn acts on the date of the King's birthday, June 4, 1792. However, there is every reason to conclude that his gift to the sovereign was decidedly less grandiose than he had intended."

On Aboriginal title without provincial forestry laws

"The right of exclusive use and possession is fundamental to Aboriginal title. Aboriginal title confers a right to the land itself, and the right to determine how it will be used. Legislation that authorizes the granting of rights to harvest timber from these lands to third parties strikes at the very core of Aboriginal title. These legislative enactments are beyond the constitutional reach of the Province. They fall within the exclusive domain of [the federal] Parliament under [the constitution]."

On species diversity and aboriginal hunting rights

"British Columbia does not have a database that provides information on the individual species of wildlife or their numbers in the [land claim area]. The absence of a database or a needs analysis indicates that Tsilhqot'in Aboriginal rights in the Claim Area are not a priority with respect to timber harvesting and other forestry activities. A management scheme that manages solely for maximizing timber values is no longer viable where it has the potential to severely and unnecessarily impact Tsilhqot'in Aboriginal rights."

Continued from p.1

'Brave new world' of medicine

For $3,000, a Utah-based test for breast cancer from Myriad Genetics has been marketed to the masses despite its lack of relevance for most women.

This test searches for mutations of two genes in particular — BRCA 1 and BRCA 2 — that have been linked to breast cancer.

Despite the fact that less than 10 per cent of this type of cancer has involved either BRCA gene, this test has been widely promoted and is currently the only model available for breast cancer testing due to patent restrictions.

"This is a genetic test that is now being marketed to the masses," said Ishiguro. "Myriad Genetics has placed blanket ads addressed to the public ... and few people need this test.

"While it is true that these mutations make you seven times more likely to get breast cancer, there are many, many other breast cancer genes ... and this test is not going to be the tell-all end-all."

> "Your doctor will eventually rely on sequencing your genome."
>
> – *Edward Ishiguro*

British Columbia's public medical plan does not cover the cost of the BRCA test and the province has recently challenged the test's licence fee. The European Union has ignored the patent law that prohibits researchers from developing alternative, arguably more useful testing of these genes altogether.

Genetic counsellors are worried that consumers may not be able to handle the information gathered by these tests given that most of the knowledge will be related to an individual's predisposition for common and often fatal diseases, Ishiguro said.

Ishiguro also explained the benefits and risks associated with gene therapy, gene patenting and complexities of human genome itself.

"We're headed to a 'brave new world' in terms of the practice of medicine ... an era where, instead of going in for a routine physical examination, your doctor will eventually rely on sequencing your genome," he said.

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Practical gifts for Victoria's homeless

Vancouver charity expands to Victoria after successful first year

Elizabeth Hames

One UVic student is bringing a Vancouver charitable initiative across the water to Victoria this Christmas, as a gift for the street community.

Spare the Cold, run completely by volunteers, will distribute new or used backpacks filled with socks, toques, gloves, personal hygiene products and Christmas cards on Christmas Day. All their goods are donated.

"Since people don't have storage or access to storage, it is important to have something that they can carry their belongings in," said Gab Laurence, UVic social sciences student and Spare the Cold's director of operations.

Laurence, 24, is introducing the Spare the Cold initiative to Victoria and Toronto this year, after its success in Vancouver last year.

"Socks are like a talisman in this neighborhood," said Rodney Jones, an outreach worker at Our Place shelter.

Jones said that while there is lots of food in Victoria, the backpacks address some of the other pressing needs of the homeless community. "If you go hungry in Victoria, you are deaf, dumb, and blind," he said.

"I think it's a good idea. We need it," said a man living on the streets, who referred to himself only as R.

Laurence had the idea for the Spare the Cold initiative in August 2006 while working for the needle-exchange program at the Downtown Eastside Youth Activities Society in Vancouver. She was considering going home to Ottawa for Christmas to be with her family, but realized that she'd rather work on Christmas Day helping those who are marginalized in the Vancouver community.

> "We need it."
>
> *– R, member of Victoria's homeless community*

"I wanted to do something to acknowledge them and remind them that there are people that are thinking about them," said Laurence.

It was her mother who inspired her to hand out backpacks, she said, "because she was notorious for giving practical Christmas gifts."

This year Spare the Cold will distribute 150 backpacks in Vancouver, up from the 100 distributed last year, as well as 150 backpacks in Toronto and 100 in Victoria. Because the backpacks were well received last year, Spare the Cold has decided to increase the number of backpacks distributed.

"It was insane," said Laurence. "They went in a period of about 20 to 30 minutes."

Laurence said she believes Spare the Cold will impact Victoria and Toronto as it did Vancouver.

"It touched a lot of people on an individual front," she said. "There's a lot of need out there."

For more information visit www.sparethecold.org.

JENNIFER ZHOU PHOTO

Gab Laurence plans to provide 100 of Victoria's homeless with a gift they can use: backpacks full of essentials such as socks, scarves and hygiene products.

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

PROTEST ON CAMPUS

On Nov. 22, over 100 people protested the B.C. government's Coastal Forest Action Plan by forming the shape of an endangered spotted owl in front of the McPherson Library.

In the Lower Mainland, the population of spotted owls has fallen from over 1,000 to less than 20.

Wilderness Committee club spokesperson Dylan Gale, a third-year philosophy and environmental studies student, said that satellite images show that over 73 per cent of the productive old-growth forests of Vancouver Island have been logged.

The endangered owl habitats must be protected, he said. "We're trying to get the government to shift away from old grown logging and move to second grown," said Gale. He said that the UVic Wildnerness Committee Club isn't against forestry, but is for sustainable forestry practices. They want to stop the export of raw logs and support local processing.

The B.C. government is attempting to capture the last spotted owls for captive breeding, while allowing logging in old-growth forests, where the owls breed. The Wilderness Committee is calling for the protection of all the unoccupied and occupied spotted owl habitats.

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Memorial raises awareness of violence against women

Dec. 4 marks anniversary of L'École Polytechnique shootings

Spencer Anderson

What: L'École Polytechnique Memorial
Where: Outside MacLaurin building
When: Tues., Dec. 4
Why: To commemorate the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

This year's L'École Polytechnique memorial will be held Tuesday, Dec. 4 at the pyramid outside the MacLaurin building.

The Human Rights and Equity Office will host the memorial, which starts at 11:30 a.m. and ends at 12:30 p.m. There will be no classes scheduled during that time.

Dec. 6, 1989 marks a bleak date in Canadian history. On that day, a Quebec man, Marc Lepine, walked into L'École Polytechnique in Montreal with a semi-automatic rifle and a hunting knife. He murdered 14 people, all of them women. In his suicide note, Lepine blamed feminists for ruining his life. To this day, the L'École Polytechnique massacre remains the largest mass-killing on Canadian soil.

The event spurred politicians to push for tougher gun control laws, and ever since, Dec. 6 has been recognized by Canada as the National Day of Remembrance and Action On Violence Against Women.

Campuses across the country will be holding memorials. UVic has put on a memorial every year since 1990.

> "Violence against women isn't just about fat, drunk bald guys wearing undershirts who hit their wives."
>
> *– Amber Dujay, event organizer*

Amber Dujay, a fourth-year UVic student, is organizing the event. Dujay, who also organized last year's memorial, said the memorial has come to represent much more than the memory of the slain women.

"It's a day of remembrance and action. The women were killed because they were women," said Dujay. "It's really sad to see that the government creates these days of remembrance, and endorses these memorials, but doesn't recognize steps to reduce violence against women."

There are several groups on the planning committee, including the Anti-Violence Project (AVP), Campus Security, Interfaith Chaplaincy and the Engineering Students' Society.

Roin Tosczak of UVic's Anti-Violence Project said the memorial allows people the opportunity to reflect upon how society deals with violence.

"This started with 14 women, and has become about so much more," said Tosczak. "It's about the ways we interact with other people and the world — how we think about violence."

"Men bear the responsibility for violence against women, and we need to bring them into the fold to stop violence," said Sinan Soykut, also of the Anti-Violence Project.

The master of ceremonies for the memorial will be Valerie Kuehne, UVic's vice-president of external relations. Liz Manning of the Women's Centre will also be speaking.

According to *Statistics Canada*, seven per cent of Canadian women "in a current or previous spousal relationship experienced spousal violence during the five years up to and including 2004. Rates of spousal abuse were highest among certain segments of the population: those aged 15 to 24, those in relationships of three years or less, those who had separated and those in common-law unions."

But violence against women can be perpetrated by a person from any background and in any situation.

"People have to understand violence against women isn't just about fat, drunk bald guys wearing undershirts who hit their wives, or psychopaths with guns," said Dujay. "Quite often, women are assualted by affluent, well-educated men in seemingly stable relationships with the women they are hurting."

After the ceremony, there will be a coffee house at 1 p.m. in the upper lounge of the Student Union Building. There will be a showing of Maureen Bradley's documentary Reframing the Montreal Massacre: *A Media Interrogation*. Bradley, a professor of drama, film theory and film production at UVic, has said her film looks at key points of the media coverage of the massacre. Also speaking is Rose Henry, an advocate for First Nations people and the homeless.

"I want people who would not normally show up or care about this issue to stop for a second and listen and change their minds. I want a discussion of these issues, and some provocation of thought, and lastly, a chance to see how some things have changed for the better," said Dujay, who said she hopes the event will cause people to rethink violence against women.

Campus poster regulations too narrow-minded: artist

Rosemary Westwood

A former UVic student and artist said he feels censored by UVic after he was denied approval to put up posters to recruit models last week. But a university administrator said the refusal is about policy, not poster content.

"I had asked in August and the admin stamped my poster. I went around and put them on the cork boards, and I got a couple of models, and now they just won't allow it," said artist Al Cowie.

David Clode, executive director of student and ancillary services, the arm of UVic that determines what posters get approved to hang on bulletin boards across campus, said that Cowie's posters were denied because they aren't from a university group or about an event on campus.

"Approval of a sign means it's the right size, right number, and it's from the right source — i.e. a source on campus. The opinions, the content, they have nothing to do with us," said Clode. "It's amazing how much people think there's some censorship going on on campus. I mean, you don't censor anything on campus."

Clode said the fact Cowie was allowed to put up posters in the summer could be a result of many factors, such as a mistake by a temp employee. He said that the university is also "stepping up enforcement, trying to be more assertive and more aggressive."

JENNIFER ZHOU PHOTO

Al Cowie said he feels UVic is censoring him from trying to recruit models for his body casts. A UVic director disagrees.

Cowie's life casting art uses models and plaster to create a kind of sculpture. His art hangs in venues around the city, including Ferris Oyster Bar and Floyd's Diner, as well as the Downtown Community Activity Centre.

"I have done quiet a few of nude pieces, but I've done a lot of faces," Cowie said.

Under the university's policy, the bulletin boards are meant for communication within the campus community.

"I think that's a little narrow minded," said Cowie. "This is a place of learning, so why narrow it down to what some else decides you should learn or know about?"

Clode disagreed.

"Once we start the world of allowing the commercial side to use your systems, we'll be swamped," said Clode. "At the end of the day, campus has become a dog's breakfast, a hell of a mess in my opinion."

Clode called non-campus commercial advertising an "epidemic" and also the university can't be expected to ensure that everybody who says they're not-for-profit is telling the truth.

NEWS BRIEF

Changes at Fernwood venue

A Nov. 20 meeting at the Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group (NRG) discussed security improvements at the Fernwood Community Centre, a popular all-ages venue.

Shows have been temporarily cancelled after an Oct. 26 slashing outside the community centre after a show. The four teens charged in the attacks allegedly randomly attacked youths exiting the building and did not attend the show.

The consensus at the meeting was that there wasn't much that show organizers could have done to prevent the attack, as it happened outside, after the show. Attendees agreed that violence at all-ages shows isn't usually an issue and that now is the time to project an image of heightened security to ease the minds of show-goers and parents who may be wary of the all-ages scene.

Revamped security for future shows at the community centre will include a well-lit front door entrance and a fenced-off back area for breaks from shows, as there will be a no-in-and-out policy.

The five-person security team that the NRG uses now will remain the same, but will be better stationed throughout the building. The police will continue to be informed about show dates, as they were on Oct. 26.

- Natalie North

This week in Martlet history

Stories from the Martlet archives

Nov. 29, 2001 — The Martlet reported that an estimated 90 per cent of what got tossed into UVic's recycling bins ended up at the city dump.

That's because people used the bins to dispose of non-recyclable items. If a bin contained more than three per cent non-recyclables, it was sent to the Hartland landfill.

If garbage trucks were found delivering recyclable items to the Hartland landfill, they were fined $100 per recyclable item, a cost which got passed onto UVic.

Dec. 1, 1988 — The manager of UVic's bookstore told the Martlet that shoplifting was on the rise. The manager said eight people were turned into Saanich police during the fall semester.

She estimated the value of stolen items was equivalent to one or two per cent of the bookstore's sales.

Small items such as pens, chocolate bars and envelopes were stolen most often. The bookstore installed a security camera, used store detectives more often, and installed locks on its changerooms in response to the thefts.

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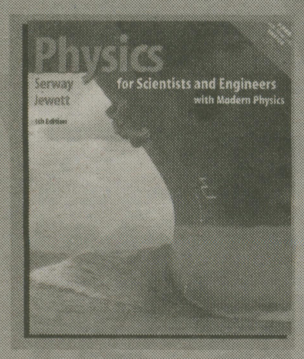

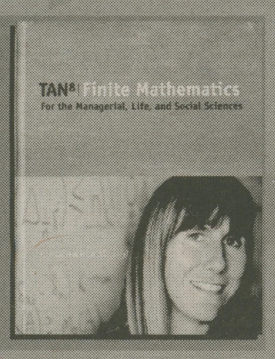

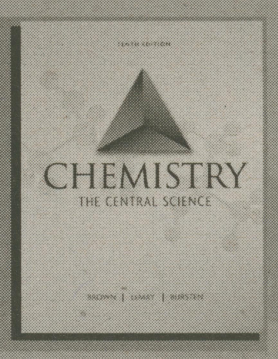

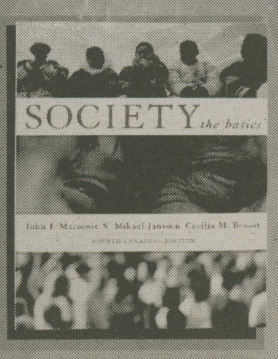

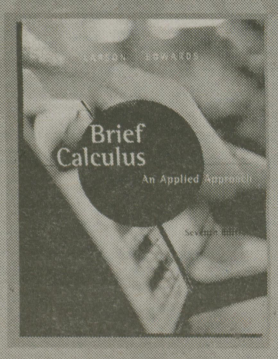

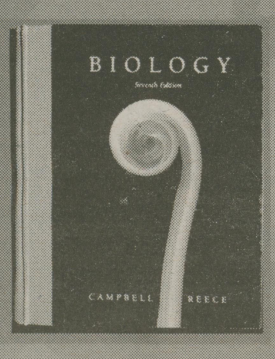

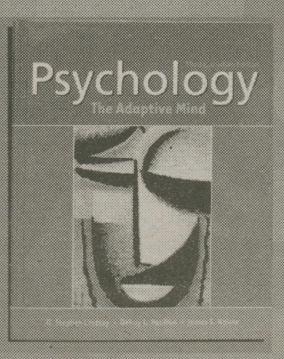

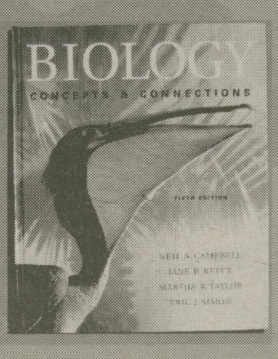

Green Party leader talks plan for carbon tax

David Karp

Climate change is an urgent problem and government should implement a carbon tax to fix it, federal Green Party leader Elizabeth May told a crowd at UVic on Friday, Nov. 23.

The 200-seat Matthews and McQueen auditorium in the David F. Strong Building was packed by people eager to hear May speak. Empty seats were hard to find and people filled the aisles and stood at the back. May was in town to talk about Vision Green, the Green Party's 160-page policy document.

"The policy instruments available to us all have to be used, starting with a carbon tax. And the carbon tax revenue will be used to decrease other taxes," said May.

May has been leading the federal Green Party since August 2006. Before that, she was the executive director of the Sierra Club of Canada. The Green Party was sitting in third place in a Nov. 12 poll by the Strategic Council. The poll puts the Greens at 13 per cent nationally, one point ahead of the NDP and two points ahead of the Bloc Québecois. The poll had the Conservatives and Liberals tied at 32 per cent.

Although May criticized Prime Minister Stephen Harper for cutting one per cent of the GST, she said the Green Party would offer other tax cuts if a carbon tax were implemented.

"If we have a $50 per tonne carbon tax, we can bring in sufficient government revenues that we can cut income taxes without risking cutting social programs," said May. She said the federal government's current position on Kyoto in unacceptable.

"Out of 165 Kyoto parties, Canada is the only one right now with stated government policy to pay no attention to the targets," said May. "It's not a question of saying, 'We have trouble reaching them.' The stated government policy of the Harper government is that they have increasing greenhouse gas emissions right through the time when we should be reducing emissions to reach our targets."

May said regulations are needed on everything from cars to refrigerators in order to lower greenhouse gas emissions.

"We need cars that go farther on less gas," said May. "We need to work closely with the Canadian auto workers to make sure that Canadian jobs are protected, but meanwhile we need the regulations."

May called for urgent action, but noted it was hard to know where to start when it comes to climate change.

"It can paralyze you with fear, and that's something you can't afford if your shortage is not of natural resources nor money, but of time," said May. "We have enough natural resources. We have enough money, if we use our time well."

She noted that when it comes to terrorism, society is ready to act and said the same mentality needs to be applied to climate change.

"The threat of climate change outpaces any potential terrorist threat," she said. "We mobilize amazingly when we think there is some potential for terrorism post 9-11. We don't seem to understand the clear evidence in front of us that the threat of climate change is more significant."

How significant is it? May said there'll be a three-degree Celcius increase in the average global temperature by 2030 if current trends continue. She said that once temperature starts escalating, it's hard to stop it because of the vicious circle of climate change.

"For example, when the forests are drier we have more forest fires. When the forests burn, CO_2 is released into the atmosphere," said May.

She called on the government to listen to scientists from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The fact that they spoke out against climate change was significant as the scientists were independent from interest groups such as the Sierra Club and Greenpeace.

"The scientific community is essentially small-c conservative," said May. "They take a while to move forward. They are not, by instinct or skill, in any way advocates."

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

George Robinson, seen here speaking at the Oct. 25 annual general meeting, said he's not suprised the UVSS board missed the deadline.

UVSS violates motion

Chairperson calls hiring process 'really hard'

David Karp

The UVic Students' Society (UVSS) board of directors hasn't complied with a directive to hire an independent expert to implement changes to its electoral policy.

At the Oct. 25 annual general meeting, students voted overwhelmingly in favour of the motion, which included a 30-day time deadline for the board to hire. Under the motion, a contract should have been signed by Nov. 24 at the latest.

"They were given a very specific deadline in order to ensure that this policy was put in place before this spring's elections," said George Robinson, the student who put forward the motion.

UVSS chairperson Tracy Ho said the deadline for the hiring was "really hard" for the board to meet and that she wants a person in place "as soon as we possibly can." Ho said a hiring committee is in charge of recommending a candidate to the board of directors, adding that she hopes the committee will make a recommendation at the next board meeting on Dec. 3.

"This is something we're taking very seriously. We are trying to do our best with the resources and time constraints that we do have," Ho said.

She said the hiring committee has posted the job, and contacted Sandra McCallum for advice on who to hire. A potential hire was contacted but Ho said he was out of town.

"Unfortunately, I'm not really surprised that they missed the deadline," said Robinson. "I didn't really expect them to take to this very kindly. I was hoping that they'd respect the authority of the AGM and do this."

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NATIONAL NEWS

Curiosity kills the squirrel

Researchers discover the unique personalities of a favourite rodent while studying adaption to climate change

Jonathan Taves
THE GATEWAY

EDMONTON (CUP) — Squirrels are as neurotic, curious and caring as the rest of us, according to each of their personalities.

A 20-year study on how squirrels adapt to climate change has also discovered that the animals have distinct personalities.

Stan Boutin, an ecologist at the University of Alberta, founded the project in 1984, and started data collection in 1989 in Southwestern Yukon.

"People have wondered whether in fact there are personalities in animals," Boutin said. "It's been well shown in a number of species, and now we've documented it in squirrels."

Boutin said he chose to study squirrels because they are easier to observe compared to other animals. He originally set out to explore animal population distribution factors, but credits one of the participating graduate students with the personality portion of the project.

"I build the system and supply the basics, and then these creative students come along and they really think up the neat ideas; this personality one was an example of that," Boutin said.

While they are being observed, the squirrels were fitted with coloured ear tags and radio transmitters to follow their movements.

"We track them right from birth to death," Boutin explained. "We know where they live, who their parents are, what resources they had, how many babies they produced. So we get all the same sort of information demographers get studying humans."

Boutin said squirrel behaviour ranges from highly aggressive and exploratory to docile and inactive.

"There are some that are pretty neurotic," he said. "We looked at whether having a personality of a certain type makes [the squirrels] more or less successful in terms of survival or raising young, and it in fact does."

The more curious squirrels didn't last as long.

"The little guys coming out of the nest and looking around for the first time get picked off much more frequently," Boutin said. "We sometimes do see [hawks] swoop down and take the guy away as we're watching him."

The research team has also observed how squirrels adapt to their changing environment.

> "There are some that are pretty neurotic."
> *– Stan Boutin, ecologist*

"The Yukon is a major place for climate change, and we've been tracking how the squirrels have been responding to it," Boutin explained, noting the animals have advanced the timing of their reproduction in response to their warming environment.

Even after more than 20 years of research, Boutin said he is still sometimes taken aback with their behaviour.

"There are things we have been able to understand extremely well. So we have confidence we have accomplished something. The other part is that they are always continually surprising us," he said.

"They've produced some really striking results. It's been quite neat."

WILLIAM WOLFE-WYLIE (CUP) PHOTO

A squirrel in a field. University of Alberta ecologist Stan Boutin said his research, as well as other studies, prove animals have personalities.

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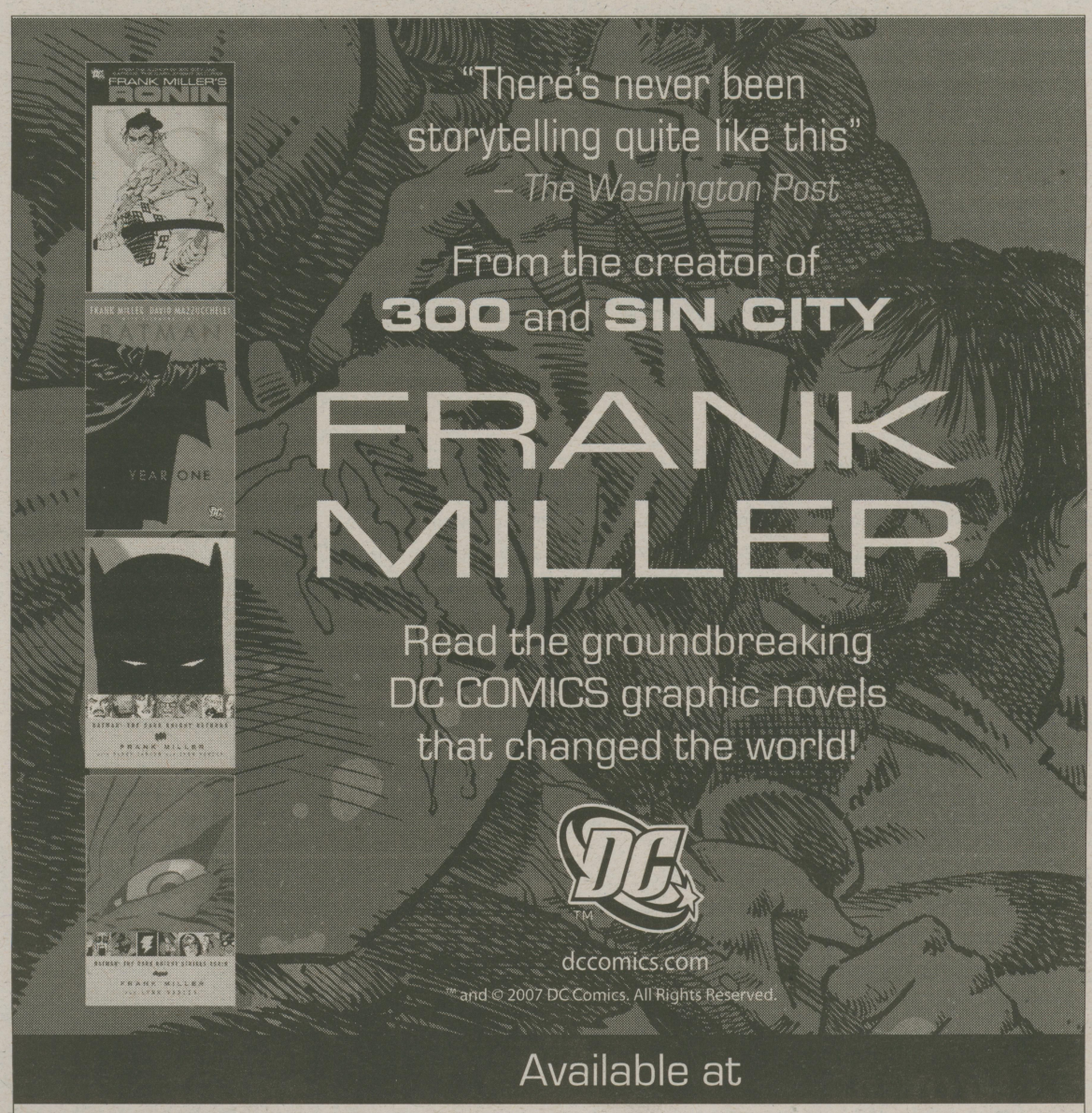

Opinions

EDITORIAL

NDP initiative is backwards

There aren't enough women in B.C. politics.

Only 17 of the province's 79 MLAs — less than a quarter — are female. It's clear that something needs to be done.

The B.C. New Democratic Party passed a well-intentioned policy at their Nov. 17 convention that will require the NDP to field a female candidate in 30 per cent of the ridings they don't currently hold. All ridings that have an NDP MLA who is not running for re-election will be restricted to female candidates in the provincial election in May 2009.

Another 10 per cent of ridings will be restricted to "youth, gay/lesbian/bi/transgendered, persons of colour, aboriginal people and persons with disabilities."

And while the policy will translate into more opportunities for under-represented groups that face discrimination, it ironically discriminates against others based on types of discrimination that the policy strives to eliminate.

If a man wants to run for the NDP in one of the women-only ridings, he won't be allowed unless he's willing to undergo a sex change. If a white, heterosexual able-bodied grandmother wants to run for the NDP in one of the 10 per cent of ridings restricted to a handful of minorities, she won't be able to.

This policy is a textbook case of racism and sexism, not to mention discrimination based on sexual orientation and ability — factors beyond a person's control. What sets the NDP's plan apart from a normal affirmative action policy is that it denies specific groups opportunities. For instance, UVic's law school has a special admissions category for Aboriginal students. But non-Aboriginal students can still be admitted to the law school and receive the exact same education that Aboriginals receive.

The problem with the NDP's plan is that our electoral system is based upon strong local representation where each riding is unique. Unlike a seat in UVic's law school, no two seats in the B.C. legislature are the same. To someone living in Smithers wanting to represent their constituents, their local seat of Bulkley Valley-Stikine is very different from Victoria-Hillside. By excluding certain types of people from running in specific ridings, you're taking away a person's opportunity to represent their neighbours on the basis of their sex or skin colour.

The NDP's plan will also delegitimize every woman who wins a nomination where men are excluded, every gay or lesbian who wins a nomination where straight people are excluded, and every young person who wins a nomination where old people are excluded. It would raise the question of whether the person won their nomination because they were the best person for the job, or because the best people for the job were excluded from running.

Former NDP leader Joy Macphail was one of the most influential women — and indeed one of the most respected politicians, male or female — to serve in the B.C. Legislature. She spent 14 successful years in provincial politics because she was the best person to serve her constituents, not because she was a woman. Upon leaving politics in March 2005, Macphail told the Martlet that "women are under-represented in politics. But we're under-represented in the corporate boardroom. We're under-represented in the NHL."

The humour in Macphail's statement shows that there's no magic overnight solution to this problem. Indeed, Macphail said she was against a minimum threshold of female politicians as it would undermine their credibility because they wouldn't truly be earning their positions.

She's right. There are better ways to try and increase female and minority representation. Give women or minority candidates tax breaks to help them run more effective campaigns. Launch an advertising campaign encouraging more women to run. Offer a membership discount for females and minorities, or, as the NDP has done, elect two consecutive female party leaders. There are many strategies which may help increase the number of female and minority politicians in the long-run. But a backwards policy that excludes people based on gender, race, sexual orientation or age doesn't help anyone.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at our weekly editorial meeting at 12:30 p.m. every Friday in the Martlet office (SUB B011). Editorials are written by one or more staff members and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

IT'S NOT FUNNY

JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

LETTERS

Not enough help for homeless

I was enraged by Cloe Williams' article (Support for homeless needs adjustments. Nov. 22). To suggest that all homeless people are drug addicts is a convenient and disgusting generalization.

For the 1,151 homeless souls in Victoria there are only 200 beds in the shelters. Perhaps the author would like to join the remaining 851 during the next week of sub-zero temperatures. It might inform the author to recognize that the average recorded minimums for December and January are near the freezing point.

It is a convenient and lazy perspective to believe that what little we are doing is not working because we are doing too much. This is nothing more than an apathetic oversimplification of a highly complex issue. Solving the problem by doing less is certainly an alluring temptation that lauds the false heroism of our current efforts.

Might the real truth not be that we are doing too little already? Williams should consider joining the Mayor of Ottawa's "starve or shoot the homeless like pigeons" campaign.

- Werner Hofsatter, Victoria

Trans Day story appreciated

Thank you for your coverage of the first Trans Day Of Remembrance at UVic (Transgendered victims remembered, Nov. 22). As a fledgling group the Trans Alliance is grateful for any and all media support. There are a few points in your article needing clarification.

The TDOR is not affiliated with Gender, Education, and Advocacy. It is noteworthy in that it a grass-roots entity that has been established in the queer calendar as a locally produced event independent of any top down management or official sanction. Also, although the number of trans deaths may not seem unusual, they reflect a significant assault on us as a group, considering our small birth-rate, the traditional under-reporting of queer bashings and murders, and the high rate of trans suicides. Proportionally, every death diminishes our numbers at a comparatively higher and far more violent rate than among non-queer populations.

Finally, Gwen Haworth's film, *She's a Boy I Knew* is actually receiving its official world premiere in Amsterdam this week, although it has been pre-screened at other film events.

- Dana Marti Waldman, UVic student

Stop preaching to the choir

A note to whoever is running the "Racism in Your Face" poster campaign on campus: we fucking get it already.

Racism is already quite dead to every intelligent and open-minded Canadian. Those who it isn't dead for, frankly, are uneducated, hateful bigots, and your posters won't do a thing to budge their stunted minds.

The vast majority of this campus is made up of intelligent and nice people, and we don't need to be patronized by your posters that could have been pulled straight off the wall of an elementary school library.

I swear I'm considering turning racist just to spite you now. White people are boring and Asian people are good at math! There! Look what you made me do!

- Michael Brown, UVic student

Share the wealth

In regards to Mike Boultbee's defence of tax cuts (Tax cuts aren't 'one dimensional', Nov. 22), I wish only to point out that Boultbee has been misled (or is intentionally misleading us) with averages. Sure, average income per person has risen since tax cuts replaced deficit reduction as the latest fad, but this says nothing about wealth distribution.

In Canada, inequality is rising, social programs are disappearing, part-time and contingent labour is growing, and it is all happening in a period of apparently unprecedented economic growth. These phenomena are all statistically observable. A recent study by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, for example, shows that while growth has been consistent for the last 30 years, only the top 20 per cent of income earners have seen any real gain, with almost all of that growth concentrated in the top 10 per cent. In fact, the bottom half of Canadian income earners have seen their share of income decrease significantly, while working longer hours at lower-quality, less stable, increasingly unsafe jobs, and taking less vacations.

Maybe the economy is doing better today — it's just too bad most of the people aren't.

- David Newberry, UVic student

Rethink university system

Mike Renaud missed the point (Letter to the editor, Nov. 8). Roshan Virk didn't suggest replacing UVic's education system with a cookie-cutter version of the College of the Atlantic (COA). It suggested the need

Continued on p. 9

Happy? Sad? Enraged? Engaged?
Tell us: letters@martlet.ca
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Look at homeless in a new way

Erika Van Winden

I don't agree with denying homeless people free food, nor do I see how giving them food has anything to do with causing the problem (Supports for homeless need adjustment, Nov. 22).

It's not that "the homeless population doesn't have the incentive to change because they are given food, or that B.C. has nice weather. Rather, something has happened in their lives that has caused them to reach the point of homelessness. Furthermore, they have reached this point because as their lives declined, the government was not there to provide adequate resources to vulnerable people.

It takes more effort, energy, and resources to help someone who has hit rock bottom than one who is beginning to sink. This is just common sense; a band-aid and a glob of Polysporin is more sensible than amputating a body part. The solution to homelessness is to attack it where it starts. Unfortunately, the government's funding cuts retard that solution.

A person does not decide one day to make homelessness their new lifestyle. It's more complicated than that. Take a look at just three examples of where the government is cutting its funding and decide for yourself if homelessness is a lifestyle choice or if a poorly run government is responsible.

Funding for women's centres was cut by 100 per cent on March 31, 2004; federal funding cut $17.7 million from B.C. literacy programs for adults, and the government has also failed in supporting child care. Women who decide to leave abusive spouses need legal help to obtain restraining orders, financial support, and child custody orders. Social assistance to feed, clothe and shelter themselves and their children is required. Nonetheless, B.C.'s 37 women centres faced a complete funding cut.

Literacy BC offers programs and services to the one million B.C. adults with low literacy. Low literacy in adults is linked to low income, increased unemployment, poor health, and other social and economic issues including homelessness. In a study of 14 countries by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Canada ranks dead last.

JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

For most parents, there is no affordable daycare for them to send their children to while they go to work. In many cases, there just isn't any daycare because all the spots are taken, and new ones aren't being created.

Battered women (usually with their children) are forced to live on the streets because there is hardly any aid. Many illiterate people are homeless because they cannot find a decent job and there's no funding for centres to help them learn. Many parents cannot properly provide financial support for their children because they have to stay at home instead of going to work.

Free food and nice weather seem hardly adequate reasons to stay homeless. There are bigger issues keeping the homeless population growing.

With respect to drug addiction, the Narconon Drug Rehabilitation Services website says it best: "the difference between the drug addict and the non-addict is that the drug addict chose drugs as an escape of the problem, instead of seeking a healthy and effective solution."

This applies to B.C.'s growing number of addicts, because seeking a healthy and effective solution in B.C. usually leads to closed doors and long waiting lists.

Furthermore, drug addiction does not discriminate. An infinite array of people have addiction problems including businessmen, students, lawyers, stockbrokers, mothers, fathers and teens. To prevalently attach addiction as a defining characteristic of homeless people is unwarranted.

Sadly, avenues for receiving and seeking help to prevent becoming homeless, or to get off the streets, has steadily become less available.

Do more for our homeless people

Jennifer Gait

Cloe Williams is correct in her opinion that supports for the homeless need adjustments (Support for homeless need adjustments, Nov. 22), but is mistaken in her premise. The root of the problem lies not in the help homeless people are receiving, but in the help they are not receiving.

The causes of homelessness are multifaceted. They include mental illness, drug and alcohol abuse, escape from family violence, unemployment due to illness or disability, and the high cost of housing in Victoria coupled with a low minimum wage and totally inadequate welfare rates. The provision of government support, however, is not one of them.

Williams, by referring to drug and alcohol addiction as "recreational use," is obviously unaware that many addicts are self-medicating a mental illness, or are using drugs and alcohol to numb the pain of past abuse. The high rate of homeless First Nations people is likely related to their treatment in residential schools where from age seven they were forbidden to speak their native language, and were completely separated from their families for 10 months a year. Many were abused emotionally, physically and/or sexually in these schools.

People requiring welfare have been abused by the system since the NDP lowered the welfare rates in the early 1990s. Since 2001, the rate for single "employable" people, those without a persistent disability or barrier to work, has been $510 per month — $325 for shelter and $185 for everything else. In April 2007, the maximum shelter allowance was raised to $425, increasing the annual welfare income from $6,120 to $7,320 for those with shelter. Homeless people receive only $2,220 ($185 monthly). The B.C. welfare rates do not provide a survival income, let alone one which will maintain health and well-being.

In 2001, the BC Liberal government initiated a three-week waiting period for welfare applicants, and set the conditions under which people could receive basic welfare, a direct violation of rules which prohibit welfare being withheld. All monies received, including gifts (limited to Christmas and birthdays), have to be reported and other income, including all earnings for those not on disability, is deducted from the next cheque. Employable people can only receive welfare for two out of every five years.

The mark of a civil society is said to be the way in which it treats its vulnerable citizens. British Columbia has legislated a system that forces welfare recipients to live below subsistence levels and outside the mainstream of society. The way to get the homeless "back on track" is not to force further privations upon them, but to treat them with the respect and compassion we would expect for ourselves.

We must bring them back into society. This will mean increasing welfare rates, making welfare accessible to all who need it, providing decent subsidized housing, and making treatment available to those who want to heal from addictions or the psychological pain of previous trauma.

Anything less is unjust and diminishes all of us.

LETTERS

Continued from p. 8

to critique the powerful university institution (Time for tinkering is over, Nov. 1).

Education isn't about "getting bang for your buck." U.S. universities cost more than Canada's, but neither are affordable for the majority of students, which is why we need to be sure we're making a worthwhile investment. If we fail to debate and reform the education system, we become passive learners, spoon-fed a limited and often biased view of the world.

COA only grants one degree, but Human Ecology encompassed one student writing a book, another becoming politically active in the UN, and others working together to create a university in the Middle East. The title of the degree is unimportant.

I'm tired of being graded on how many stressful hours I can spend memorizing useless information. I'd rather be rewarded for the skills I develop and the meaningful work I create through my university education. It's up to us, the students, to imagine and create the university system we want.

- Charlotte Barrow, UVic student

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Hooray for 'they' — it's here to stay

Steven Edwards

After handing back our first assignment, my English professor expressed his concern that high schools had simply stopped teaching grammar. As a bit of a grammar geek myself, it was to my greatest shock when I discovered he wasn't attacking misplaced semi-colons, or tearing apart students for using "your" when they meant "you're." Instead, the victim was my close friend, the singular "they."

The singular "they" is pretty simple. It's conjugated as "they" is normally conjugated, but (because it's singular) it's exempt from regular subject-pronoun agreement. It's not new in its use either. Dating back to Elizabethan English, it's been used by William Shakespeare, Charles Dickens and Jane Austen, and even in more modern times by celebrated authors such as H.G. Wells, George Orwell and C.S. Lewis. In speech, it is becoming more and more used.

It seems the only people shy of the singular "they" are writers of style guides and English teachers.

While its usage in the English language is old, the need for the singular "they" is relatively new. Its precursor, the generic "he," was one of the many casualties that feminism in the 1960s took on the English language.

While it is no longer proper to use "he" when gender is unknown (for example, "when a person loses use of a perfectly good pronoun, he is likely to be upset"), people were forced to come up with ad hoc alternatives ("when one uses 'one' excessively, one is likely to make oneself look pompous"), use both applicable pronouns ("when a person tries to please everyone grammatically, he/she can cause confusion"), or forgo pronouns altogether ("when a person cannot use pronouns, that person's sentences will end up being unnecessarily long"). The only clean solution is the singular "they."

I can understand the position of English teachers. They see the language of Facebook and MSN and are forced to take battle stations to defend the language. However, there exists a wide space between their English, and that of the L33t. Middle ground includes room for a singular "they," among other things that help the language. This usage is not a mistake or simple laziness. The singular "they" enhances the language, and should be taught and encouraged. It should not be mocked, or just simply permitted to exist.

The solution can only be revolution. Storm the library, raze the bookstore, and burn the style guides until nothing is left that stands in the way of understanding.

Death penalty contradicts Canadian values

Justin Carr

Canadian citizens now have the privilege to languish in a foreign prison for 25 years, then be executed thanks to Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his Conservative government.

As a way of trying to stop this injustice, on Nov. 22 Liberal leader Stéphane Dion wrote to Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer to ask him to commute the death sentence for Ronald Allen Smith, a Canadian citizen sentenced to death for the murder of two men in 1982. Dion wrote to Schweitzer on behalf of Canadians of all political stripes to urge him to commute the death sentence for Smith and to convey to the governor that the majority of Canadians continue to believe that we must oppose its use, both domestically and in cases where our citizens face this punishment abroad.

The Conservative government made the announcement that they would no longer seek clemency for Canadians sentenced to death by foreign countries, despite recent opinion polls that have shown that Canadians overwhelmingly oppose the reintroduction of the death penalty in Canada. Still, the Conservatives claim that the death penalty in the United States is legitimate because that country is a democracy, despite the fact that American Bar Association has found so many inequities and shortfalls in death penalty systems in several American states that it is now calling for a nationwide moratorium on executions. By not standing up for a Canadian citizen facing the death penalty in the U.S., the Conservatives are reversing a long-standing Canadian practice and are appealing to a right-wing base of support with their hypocritical opposition to the death penalty domestically, while refusing to defend Canadians who face the penalty in a foreign country. The government's new position also undermines the efforts of the United Nations in its call for an international moratorium on the death penalty — we as a nation refuse to call on Montana for clemency, yet we ask the rest of the world for a moratorium. If this minority Conservative government really wants to further their socially conservative agenda, they should debate the issue in Parliament, and show Canadians exactly where they stand. Despite claims that they have no intention of reintroducing the death penalty in Canada, many current cabinet ministers have spoken publicly about their support for the death penalty: Justice Minister Rob Nicholson, Defence Minister Peter MacKay and Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day have all publicly supported reinstating the death penalty in Canada. The Supreme Court of Canada has held that prior to extraditing an individual for a capital crime, Canada must seek assurances that the death penalty will not be applied. Today, Ronald Allen Smith is the only Canadian facing the death penalty in the United States; hopefully he will be the last.

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Another day at the playground

Rosemary Westwood

The legislature buildings are more than just a light show in this town.

It may not seem like it, but politicians actually gather there frequently to govern our province. One might assume that inside the stately building with its many stained-glass windows proclaiming justice and its marble carved rooms, the elected representatives debate with decorum the many issues that face them.

And that would be wrong. During question period in the B.C. legislature on Nov. 22, Gordon Campbell couldn't sit up straight to save his life and members of the NDP shouted themselves hoarse.

The Speaker of the House behaved like a schoolteacher, berating the naughty MLAs who screamed "Lies!" and "You can't even answer the question!"

"Members, members!" he chastised them from his ornate chair.

It was, in fact, a day like any other. And underneath the high tempers and theatrics — Rich Coleman, Minister of Forests and Range and Minister Responsible for Housing, spent so much time waving his arm up and down he looked like a metronome — some important issues managed to surface.

Carole James, opposition leader, wanted to know why the government was restructuring its budget for public schools "in the middle of the school year." Other NDP MLAs called Minister of Education Shirley Bond's move "money-grabbing."

Bond responded by quoting an overall increase in education spending during the Liberal's reign.

Then Bond and James proceeded to be flabbergasted that either could hold the opinions they did, considering both previously-held roles in school boards.

Coleman worked up a sweat spitting out stats of improved low-income housing in the province to combat one claim that, contrary to the Liberal's previous promise, low-rent hotels in the Downtown Eastside were closing up and leaving people homeless.

Campbell barked the odd time at opposition questions, and spent so much time bent over, pounding his desk like a kid having a tantrum that he had to switch to clapping half way through the session. NDP leader Carole James seemed to have similar disregard for appearance, chatting away with her right and left-hand MLAs, even during a question from her own party.

Amidst the chaos, Nanaimo MLA Leonard Krog brought forward a motion to ban smoking in cars where children are present in B.C., a ban already enacted in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. And then, like the calm after the storm, the kids shut up.

In what was the highlight of the day, the Liberals tabled legislation to hand over control of education on reserves to First Nations.

And then everyone went home to mommy to get ready for another day on the playground.

Harper had his chance

Spencer Anderson

Like or loathe Stephen Harper, everyone was curious to see what kind of prime minister he would be.

Although Canadians have chosen a mixed rabble to grace the entrance of 24 Sussex Drive throughout the country's lifetime, many thought Harper would never make it. His stiff, cold demeanor coupled with many of his views (if he had been PM in 2003, Canada would be in Iraq, for example) seemed to be the last nail in the coffin. But a sponsorship scandal and an RCMP investigation later, and Harper finally reached the echelons of Canadian government.

This achievement was accompanied by much hand-wringing from more liberal-minded Canadians over what he would do to health care, the environment and so on. However, upon his election, Harper had one very precious thing to offer to Canadians of all political stripes: a chance for open, accountable, democratic government. Throughout his campaign, Harper promised to return to grassroots democracy, consensus, accountability, clean government, and openness, all of which the Liberal government was deficient in.

Harper's government is approaching its two-year anniversary, and putting aside how it has performed in other areas, it's time to assess how it has done on the democracy file. Let's be clear: no reasonable person could honestly say Harper has met the democratic standards that he held the Martin government accountable to.

One of Harper's very first acts as prime minister was to approach then-Liberal David Emerson and convince him to cross the floor. It was the sort of act that left Harper fuming when he was the Leader of the Opposition and Belinda Stronach joined the Grits .

Then there was his decision to barricade his ministers from the Press Gallery. Harper has been the first prime minister in Canadian history to do so. This is quite a contrast from his rhetoric as a Canadian Alliance MP. Whatever happened to openness, Stephen?

Actually, Harper's entire tenure has been marred by his desire and will to muzzle and control every person in his caucus. Ministers in Canada have traditionally had at least some control over their files, but with Harper, everything has been about staying on message, and maintaining the minty fresh, new, moderate Conservative image. Rona Ambrose wasn't very good at selling the Clean Air Act, so she got sacked. Gordon O'Connor didn't make the Afghanistan Mission look good, so he was fired.

Let's not forget the Accountability Act, or, as some Conservatives would put it, "Jesus on Paper." This document does so little to address corruption, it's almost as if Alfonso Gagliano wrote it. It prevents people who have worked for a cabinet minister to work as a lobbyist until five years later (unless they have worked for the prime minister personally), lowers the cash donation limit to political parties from $25 to $20 (gasp!) and is so weak in other areas that it can't be taken seriously. It resembles Harper's commitment to make government honest.

Now we find out that Harper's party may have violated the Canada Elections Act, or in layman's terms, spent more than they were allowed on advertising. Perhaps most disturbing of all is the ease with which Harper has dismissed the values of grassroots democracy when two Tory candidates, selected by party members by democratic processes, were denied permission to run in the next election so that Harper could fit in more star candidates.

Harper made a commitment to improve our democracy, and he has failed miserably.

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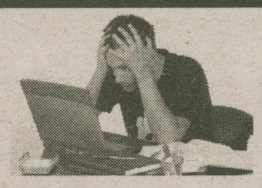

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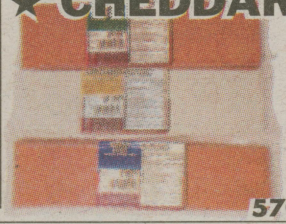
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Physics & Astronomy	MSc, PhD
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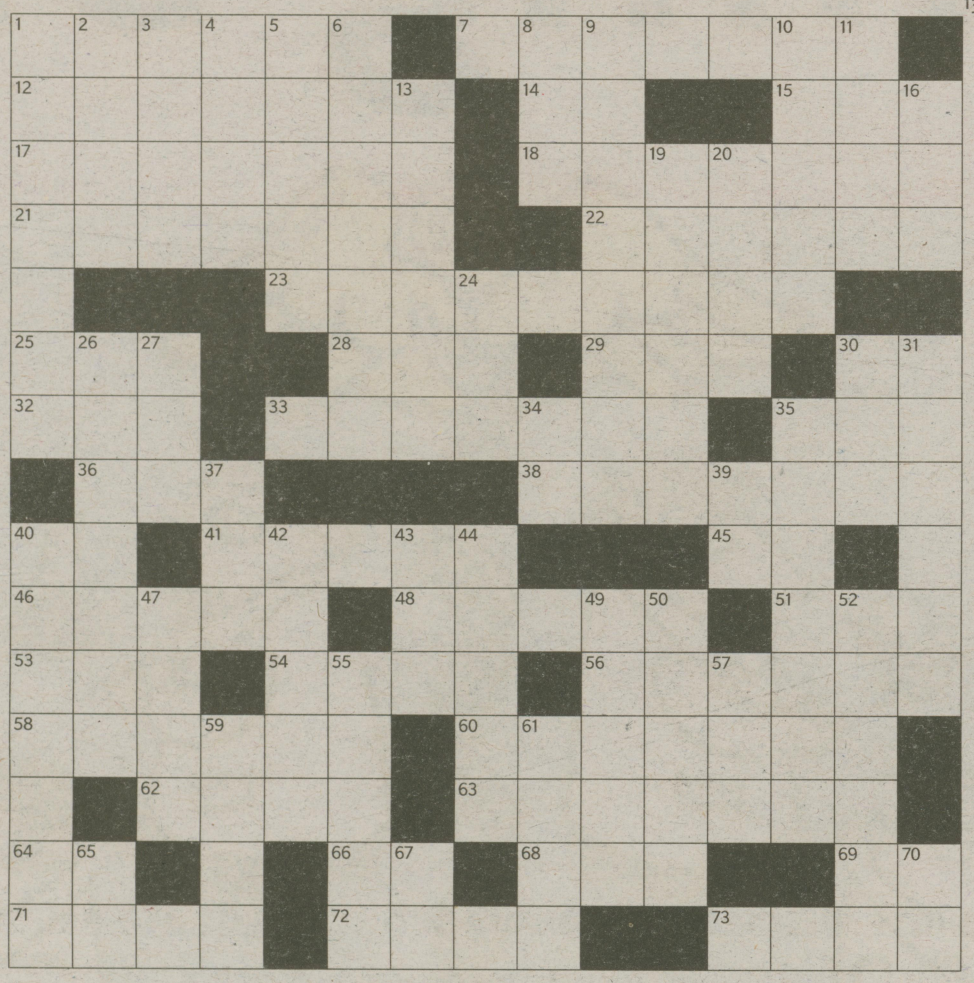
The Martlet Crossword by David Karp

ACROSS

1 Conroy and Nolan
7 Peter MacKay's portfolio
12 Monarchs
14 Baseball player Vaughn
15 *How Bizarre* band
17 Borrower's problem
18 Parliament, sometimes
21 Secret police
22 Police tools
23 Dutch painter
25 Will Ferrell movie
28 Distant
29 Fleming or McKellen
30 Chocolate phone manufacturer
32 Spy
33 *The Fountainhead* author
35 Central Asian nomad
36 *Office Space* report
38 Escape of fluid
40 Attracted to both sexes
41 Joe or Frank
45 Canadian Press's U.S. equivalent
46 Frequent
48 Precedes Loompa
51 Nighttime garment
53 Fool
54 Software identifier
56 Whirlpool currents
58 Sikhs
60 Langara College newspaper
62 Fibbed
63 Allocate
64 __ Paso
66 Ten centimetres
68 Online news feed
69 UVSS director-at-large Pullman
71 Transaction
72 Three feet
73 Partner of 70 down

DOWN

1 Retro video game
2 *Nutty Professor*'s Buddy
3 Affirmative responses
4 Market
5 Elf-like Warhammer race
6 Shock
8 Flightless bird
9 Assembly of First Nations Chief
10 Cherish
11 Muslim ruler
13 Servant in royal household
16 Mercedes class
19 Winnipeg Bluebombers defensive end
20 High speed network
24 Exclamation of cold
26 *Living Single* actress
27 Uploading tool
30 Carry
31 Metamorphic rock
34 Gore or Roker
35 More joyful
37 Female pronoun
39 European Ford hatchback
40 Horse race profiteers
42 Plant that smells like licorice
43 Scooby surname
44 Toronto street
47 Cookware manufacturer
49 Support group for prostitutes
50 Famous television family
52 Dried and marinated meat
55 Golfer's assistant
57 Genetic code
59 Christian rock band
61 Baking essential
65 Follows so
67 Father's wife
70 Deceased princess



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Botching biol

JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHICS

Don't come to UVic to study the rabbits. Biology courses that focus on whole organisms (plants and animals) are disappearing like spotted owls, even thought the biology department is growing. Professors often choose to go off the record when discussing how they think the program should change. And the students are irate.

Selina McGinnis, a third-year biology student, was shocked when the department cut an entomology (insect biology) course.

"I was beyond words when courses like Biology 412, which I waited three years here at UVic to take, were being cut," she said in an email. "I'm finding the choices limited."

Following the money

UVic is gaining a reputation for cellular and molecular biology. Research in these fields levers the grant-raking machine that has landed UVic a 40.2 per cent increase in sponsored research income in the last year and a seat in the "$100 Million Club" of Canadian universities, according to 2007 rankings by Research Infosource Inc.

But that's coming at the expense of whole-organism biology, where students lured into four areas — marine biology, plant biology, entomology and ecology — find themselves trapped with not enough course offerings.

"The department is moving away from whole-organism ecology, or whole-organism studies of any type, and in this particular case toward more proximal analyses," said UVic ecology professor Tom Reimchen.

Proximal biology refers to a mechanistic approach where complex phenomena are dissected into their simplest components: right down to the molecule. This form of reductionism has troubled whole-organism scientists since James Watson and Francis Crick deciphered the structure of DNA in 1953.

But there's an incentive for focusing on molecular biology — money.

"If you go to the molecular, you can commodify it," said Anne Parkinson, biology co-op co-ordinator. "You can own a certain gene. You can make money right on the spot."

Classical sweep-net and hand-lens biology is not so profitable.

"It's difficult to get money to support whole-organism studies," said Royal BC Museum curator Richard Hebda, who taught biology at UVic for more than 20 years. Good ecological studies need to be long-term, and researchers must battle the weather and land issues, not to mention "the challenge of observing nature in a vigorous objective science-based way." Hebda said lab-based molecular biology promises relatively quick discoveries, yielding a thicker stack of publications and more short-term rewards.

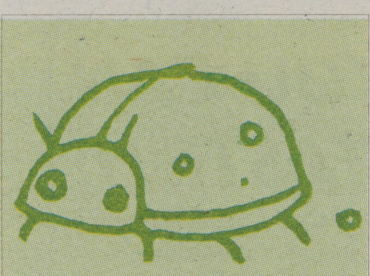
"Grind and find," as Parkinson called it, is a research tactic that has spurred four spin-off companies at UVic. Last year, the study of conifer extracts by UVic alumnus Brett Poulis spurred FloraPure Biosciences Inc., which is working to incorporate plant-derived chemicals into skin creams and antibiotics. Cancer-fighting Protox Therapeutics began in 2002 when UVic biochemistry professor Tom Buckley genetically modified a bacterial toxin to target cancer cells. Microtek Research and Development has been hiring biochemistry and microbiology co-op students to find vaccines for the aquaculture industry since its inception in 1998. Biology department chair Will Hintz is the president of MycoLogic Inc., founded in 1994 to use fungal chemicals for biological control.

Four of the 19 recent and pending patents listed by UVic on Flintbox, an information-sharing system run by UBC, relate to molecular biology. Ecology and whole-organism biology don't aim to grow lucrative technologies.

"We've built this department into one of the best research departments in Canada, through aggressive hiring and development of core research areas," said Hintz. The research is reflected in the undergraduate curriculum, because course offerings depend on "what areas of biology we can address with our expertise," he said.

So to what extent is undergraduate education guided by the "invisible hand," which motivates research direction and faculty hiring of the biology department?

"UVic has gone with the flow, so to speak," said ecology professor Reimchen. "Obviously it has a downside. The downside is that students often can't get courses that they've gone into biology for."



BUG BIOLOGY CRUSHED

Two of three entomology (insect biology) courses are gone this year.

Economic Entomology was removed from the university calendar this year, and Advanced Entomology was not offered for the first time. However, Introductory Entomology still survives in the same time slot it has occupied since Richard Ring began teaching it in 1966.

logy

How UVic is following the money to molecular biology, leaving plants and animals lagging behind | Samantha Magnus

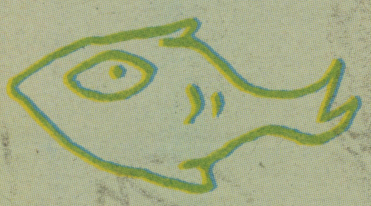
DROWNING MARINE BIOLOGY

"We have this reputation of being a department that offers marine biology," said curriculum committee chair Barbara Hawkins. But when she was an adviser for aspiring marine biologists, she "felt like there was not really enough offered for them in that area.

"It seems like a logical thing to develop."

The department's three marine biologists are shared positions with the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences. While projects and institutions such as VENUS, NEPTUNE and the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre back UVic's growing reputation as "Canada's Ocean's University," the biology department doesn't put much muscle into carrying that flag. There are two marine-related courses offered exclusively by the biology department UVic: one marine invertebrate biology and one marine ecology class. A third, biological oceanography, is shared with Earth and Ocean Sciences.

Other biology faculty use marine organisms in their research, but they don't contribute to the course offerings in marine science.



Misleading students

UVic's calendar lists many attractive whole-organism biology courses even though they haven't been offered for years. Students don't find out until they go to register in their senior year.

Chandra Moffat, attracted to UVic by its reputation, intended to pursue ecology from square one.

"I say either stop pretending that ecology, conservation biology and wildlife biology are areas of interest offered in the department — or actually offer the courses to support this," she said in an e-mail.

Krista Sittler, an honours biology student, said she made a mistake by transferring to UVic from Malaspina University College in Nanaimo.

"I chose to come to UVic because I was looking for more diversity in class selection," she said in an e-mail. "The course calendars should be updated regularly and classes that are not being offered should be removed from it, so that future students are not 'tricked' into making the same mistake that I did."

But university bureaucracy can make it difficult to put courses back in the calendar after they're removed.

"If you delete something, it takes a year-and-a-half to get it back in again," said UVic biology professor Barbara Hawkins, chair of biology's curriculum committee. "That's partly why courses stay on the books for five years without being offered."

Although courses can be cancelled by the department chair alone, the committee is responsible for deleting courses from the list. Their chair says the committee is working on it.

"Let's get those courses out of the calendar because it's not fair," Hawkins said.

Expressions of frustration and regret echo in the halls of the Cunningham building. In a letter sent to the department chair outlining her concerns, Moffat wrote, "I know my opinions represent those of dozens of students as we speak quite often of our grievances with course offerings and scheduling."

The science faculty has named environmental science as one of its four central research goals, but while the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences and School of Environmental Studies are all over it, the biology department is not.

"It's important to remember that this is not a large university," said UVic dean of science Tom Pederson. "We have to cover six different departments with all their sub-disciplines [in the faculty of science], so we can't cover everything.

"At the same time, the message that needs to be delivered is that even though we don't cover everything, the quality of education students get at this university is better than anywhere else in the country."

But others say a true biology department must include a full offering of whole-organism courses.

"Change the name," said biology professor Neville Winchester. "If it isn't the department of biology, if it doesn't have an ecology component, let's be honest about it.

"It's the department of medical sciences," said Winchester, who has collected 204 signatures in support of offering a field-based follow-up to his Biology of the Vertebrates course.

Curriculum committee chair Hawkins said whole-organism biology at UVic is suffering.

"There are a number of people in the department that are quite concerned about the organismal side of biology within the department," she said. "We're very strong now in the molecular and cellular, but maybe that's at the expense of the organismal physiology side of things."

While UBC has 40 faculty members in its botany department alone, UVic's entire biology department has 31. UVic biology professor Patrick von Aderkas, a previous department chair, said the department makes the most of their numbers by aiming for "depth over breadth."

"We recognize that we can't be everything to everyone," said current chair Hintz.

An endangered discipline

UVic's isn't the only university moving away from whole-organism biology, and some are concerned about the future of the discipline.

"The real challenge in society is that a lot of our questions really rely on how we adapt in the ecological world," said museum curator Hebda. "It will become acutely important in the next few decades."

He said that with Victoria's habitat, UVic could be leading the way in the field. "UVic, because it is well position in terms of access to natural systems, really has the opportunity to teach that kind of stuff," Hebda said.

Instead, UVic is lagging behind, leaving community colleges to pick up the slack.

"I would say that we've lost our ecosystem view in universities — big time," said co-op coordinator Parkinson. "Those courses that are more whole-ecosystem biology are being lost and that's being bemoaned by the country."

Hebda said community colleges are stepping up environmental and wildlife management programs, but students are only being trained as technicians.

"They know how to do certain things, but not how to think about principles," said Hebda, adding that university graduates "are much better equipped for the kind of fieldwork needed for restoration."

University-level training in plant and animal identification started dwindling in the '70s, and the last generation is now retiring.

"There really aren't many experts left," Hebda said. "There is a lack of people with the appropriate skills for whole-organism work."

Without these experts, researchers will be able to synthesize solutions to the health of a cell, but there will be no drug to cure our feverish planet. "Whole ecosystem biology is still extremely essential," said Parkinson, pointing to issues like species extinctions and global warming.

"We're mesmerized by technology because of the wonderful things it can do, but we've forgotten something very important," said Hebda. "You have to be able to identify what you're studying. You have to be able to understand ecological principles."

More change in the biology department is coming. According to Hintz, neurobiology and marine science will be expanded. Two faculty members have already been hired to boost the latter, but that hasn't yet translated to a calendar upgrade. That's because new professors don't teach a full course load until their third year at UVic, a policy that Hintz and the dean of science said was imposed to encourage researchers to kick-start their lab work. The department is also anticipating two new research chairs, one in neurobiology and the other in fisheries biology.

Without a review since 1999, the department is "well overdue" for a review, said Hintz. An external review will take place Dec. 6 and 7.

EXTERMINATING ECOLOGY

Ecology students are lamenting the loss of Population Ecology, basic training for anyone wanting to go on in the ecology field. Without that course and Plant Ecology, there are only two ecology courses left: Advanced Aquatic Ecology and Ecology of Prokaryotes.

And there are only two 400-level courses left that concern life at the scale of organisms and populations: Herpetology (reptile biology) and Evolution.

"There seems to be a shift in importance and ecology-based courses seem to be on their way out," said transfer student Krista Sittler. "In hindsight, I would not have come here."

PLANT BIOLOGY SHRIVELLING

UVic is experiencing a drought in plant science courses.

Hosting the Centre for Forest Biology means that there are usually a number of plant-keen professors around, but this year three professors are on sabbatical. The department only hired sessional instructors to teach half the courses jeopardized by the shortage of faculty, even though sabbaticals must be planned well in advance.

Tree biology will be offered next semester for the first time by Barbara Hawkins and Patrick von Aderkas. As a result, Hawkins abandoned her regular 48-seat class to prepare for the new 20-seat one.

Two more plant biology courses listed haven't actually been offered for the last three years. In total, five of the nine plant biology courses in the calendar are missing in action. Students graduating this year who planned to study botany have lost most of their program.

Car care for dummies

Rosemary Westwood

So you've got a car. Maybe it's a beater, complete with ripped seats and rust. Maybe it's new, all shiny and smelling like fresh chemicals. But do you know how to take care of it?

Car maintenance is something most people ignore until the day smoke billows from the hood. And while in the good old days people could work on their cars themselves, today's vehicles aren't so easy.

"Nowadays with computerized transmission, there's a lot more to know," said Tom O'Keeffe, owner of O'Keeffe's Automotive Services in Oak Bay.

"You need advanced tools and technical training to deal with the new systems in new cars."

A mechanic since 1986, O'Keeffe said new technology isn't a free ride for car owners. There are still a few basics that every driver should know.

Five important things to check

1. The owner's manual: Remember that hefty book you got when you bought the car? It's called an owners manual, and O'Keeffe said every driver should read it, cover to cover.

"Everything from the headlights to the radio is in there," he said, adding that because driving in Victoria tends to mean short trips, with a lot of stopping, starting and idling, the city is classified as "severe" service.

2. Tires: All drivers should know how to inspect their car's tires for both tread and pressure. That includes the spare tire.

"There's nothing worse than being stuck on the side of the road with a busted spare tire," said Paul Cooper of Cadboro Bay Village Service Automotive Service and Repair.

O'Keeffe said he bets 40 per cent of Victoria residents are driving around with flat spare tires in their trunks.

3. Lights: There are so many things in a car that blink or light up, it can be hard to keep track of them all. Nevertheless, drivers should make sure every light in the car is working properly.

"Believe it or not, you're supposed to do that once a week," said O'Keeffe.

This ensures drivers can both see and be seen on the road.

4. Fluid levels: "Not knowing to check the fluids is a big one," said O'Keeffe, who noted that in the Motor Vehicle Act, drivers are responsible for general care of cars and to not due so constitutes neglect.

"The location of the oil dipstick, and the transmission dipstick, and what kind of oil are all in the owner's manual," he said.

Cooper noted that oil should be changed twice a year, once in the winter and once in the spring.

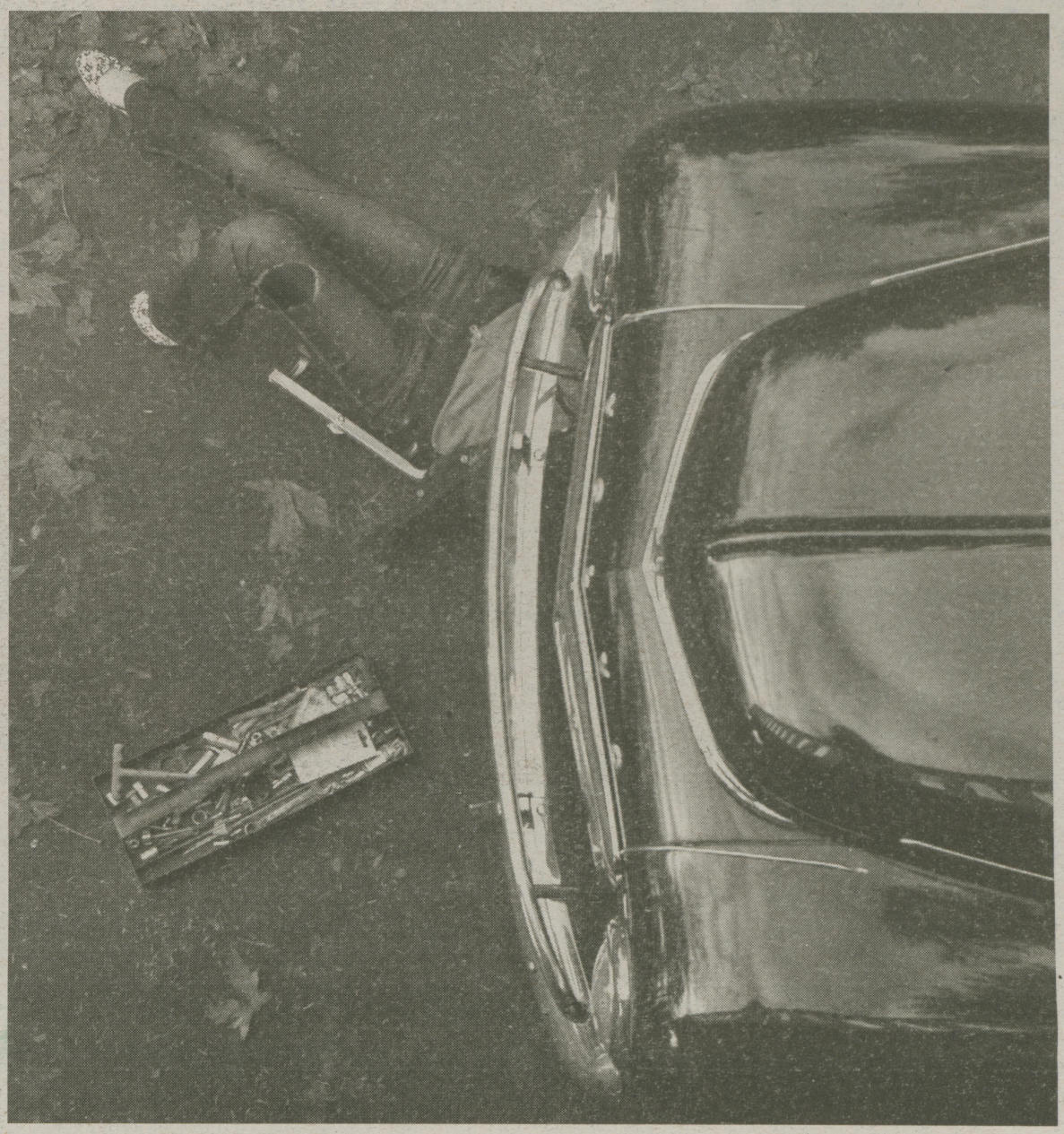
5. Regular inspection: This includes brakes and pretty much everything else. Remember that spare tire you're supposed to check up on? When your car gets serviced, the mechanic will make sure the spare tire is in good working order.

O'Keeffe said places like Mr. Lube are good for fluid check-ups, but they are not full-service shops.

"The reality is that they're not really qualified to work on your car," he said.

Other final tips

So you've memorized those five tips and everything is dandy. Then your car starts to feel like it's running out of gas, and you just filled up the tank. This is when you pass responsibility on to the professionals.



JOSH SZCZEPANOWSKI PHOTO

Owning a car isn't just a joyride — knowing when your baby needs a tune-up will keep you both coasting.

"We're like the messengers of death because we're not a happy purchase," said O'Keeffe.

But both O'Keeffe and Cooper stressed the importance of finding a mechanic you can trust, and then letting them do the diagnosis.

Gather as much information as you can, said O'Keeffe. Make a note of any sounds, when the problem occurs and what's going on both in and outside of the car.

Be sure to keep maintenance receipts in the glove box, as these can help the mechanic and save time and money.

Remember that cars are designed to run with multiple problems, so if you haven't been keeping up to date with maintaining your car, you could have more than one problem on your hands.

— with files from Samantha Garofalo

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Danielle Pope

Dear Miss Martlet:

Please help. I swear I am actually addicted to Facebook.

- Scared

Dear Scared:

First, take a deep breath. You're not alone. Second, pat yourself on the back — admitting the problem is the first step to recovery.

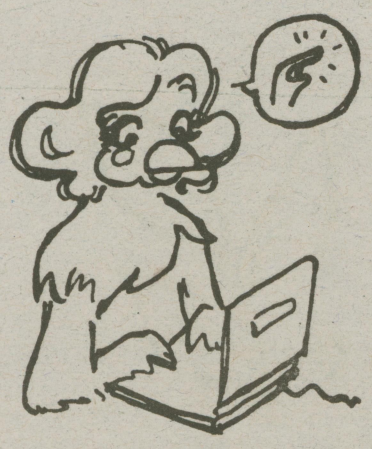
Facebook is an indispensable way to find old friends, schedule events, play games and even send "gifts." But if you're doing more living online than off, it might be time to reassess.

How can you tell when things are getting out of control? Answer these questions:

• Are personal relationships taking a backseat to Facebook?

• Do you think about Facebook even when you're offline?

• Do you use Facebook to escape problems or homework?



JENNIFER ZHOU GRAPHIC

• Do you stay on Facebook longer than intended?

• Have you ever concealed Facebook use?

If you answered yes to any, you might be a borderline addict — no joke.

Frequent Facebook visits actually cause something psychologists refer to as "intermittent reinforcement" — getting those notifications, messages and invites reward you with an unpredictable high, much like gambling. That anticipation can get dangerously addictive.

Dr. Rob Bedi, a registered psychologist and assistant professor at UVic, said Internet addictions are common on university campuses, due to free Internet access, web-based assignments and unstructured blocks of time.

Bedi said there's a difference between procrastination and addiction, but if you're losing assignment time to Facebook, that's a problem.

The key may be as simple as diagnosing your triggers and changing your habits.

"Find out what's missing from your life," said Bedi. "Whether it's having too much free time, not knowing anyone or just escaping, think about what made you resort to [Facebook], and what you could be doing instead."

Bedi suggests keeping a log to track your Facebook usage. If you're shocked by what you see, try the following:

• List your Facebook goals. Why did you originally sign up?

• Record what you actually do on Facebook.

• Make a Facebook schedule. Limit time to maintaining your original goals.

• Update your e-mail addresses to avoid relying on Facebook messages.

Another tip: change your password to something unfamiliar with numbers. Write this on a piece of paper out of reach to make checking Facebook a chore. Repeat if necessary to curb behaviour.

"This is not something you can quit cold turkey," said Bedi. "While a cocaine addict can put down his drug and an alcoholic his drink, you can't preach abstinence to a student society that functions on Internet usage. What you can do is practise control."

For some people, talking with someone might be the answer. UVic Counselling Services runs an all-addiction support group called Over the Influence every Tuesday from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

If you're not quite ready for that, you could join one of the 155 Facebook Addicts Anonymous groups on Facebook — but that might defeat your purpose.

Got a question, or plaguing curiousity? Let Miss Martlet do the investigating for you. Send queries to missmartlet@martlet.ca

Club-goers enjoy genre-crossing DJs

Champion Sound DJs blend all genres of music together to create a whole new style of entertainment.

Jennifer Murphy

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

Josh Haase (right), also known as DJ Merge, mixes a variety of genres at Lucky Bar. Haase said it's a DJ's job to break new records.

Back in the day it was just two turntables and a microphone. Lucky Bar's Champion Sound brings back that simplicity to Victoria every Thursday night.

"Champion Sound is true hip-hop DJing in its purest sense," said Liam Lux, manager of Lucky Bar.

The turntable duo of Josh Haase (DJ Merge) and Steve Feltham (DJ Verse) use every genre of music in their weekly set. In its beginning, hip hop had a very limited selection of beats and sequences, DJs were forced to scour every genre for beats to play with.

"Champion Sound returns to that original ethos by finding and blending anything worth playing, regardless of the genre — then flipping it and turning it into something new," explained Lux.

However, as hip hop evolved and more beats became available, it became less essential to search other genres for great tracks. Revisiting genre mixing has created an atmosphere that allows audiences and DJs to return to the days of open-minded music and explore new and innovative tracks.

"From a DJ's perspective we are at a really good time in music," said Haase.

Haase credited many mainstream artists for the current increase in experimentation, which has allows DJs to mix things up even further.

> "When someone comes up and says, 'Hey, what was that you were playing?' That's when you know you've done your job."
>
> *-DJ Merge*

Clubs are mirroring this experimentation.

"A lot of bars are playing with new formats, which is allowing us to play new types of music. We are expressing ourselves a lot more," said Haase.

However, not all bars have the ability to attempt such a concept. Lucky Bar has built a reputation of being ahead of the pack.

"If you are a top-40s bar and you do something different, it doesn't always work," said Haase. "Lucky Bar has always been a bit further out to left field."

The concept of the night came from a sense of changing times.

"With the current shift in musical taste, and with audiences being more open to new music, they saw an opportunity to use their considerable skills as turntablists to blend these 'new' sounds with the classics that inspired them," said Lux.

Although Haase and Feltham embrace different types of music, they are scratch DJs at heart.

"We are always trying to incorporate scratching as much as we can. But tastefully, we don't want to be cuttin' the whole time," said Haase. "The combination of music we are playing — it's kind of cool to bring that in."

Haase and Feltham also take their roles as DJs seriously.

"As a DJ it's your job to break new records," said Haase. "And the reward is when someone comes up and says, 'Hey, what was that you were playing?' That's when you know you've done your job."

Another measurement is the response from the dance floor.

"For what I play I really focus on the dance floor," said Haase. "From the night's perspective, it is a lot more successful if you see girls on the dance floor."

And it was the girls' response to the music, according to Lux, that created the slogan "Girls Like It."

"When we were trying to describe the music, we were challenged by the fact that these guys play everything — literally. Rock, pop, indie, '60s, soul, funk, disco, old school, rare groove, hip hop, R&B, and maybe some country or classical or even jazz — is way too long," said Lux.

"When we tried to find one common element in all the different music they play, we could only come up with one: girls like it."

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Graduate makes robotic bandmate

What: MISTIC 2007
Where: Philip T. Young Recital Hall
When: Thurs. Nov. 29 @ 8 p.m.
How Much: Free

Sam VanSchie

Local fusion group the Karmetik Collective has a new member — one with 12 arms and no chance of dropping out due to relationship or drug problems.

The multi-instrumentalist robot is the brainchild of Ajay Kapur, a recent graduate of UVic's interdisciplinary PhD program. He combined electrical and computer engineering, music, computer science and psychology into one degree.

"You can't just be good at one thing," said Kapur, sitting cross-legged in a nest of wires to demonstrate how the custom-made sensors on his electronic sitar make the robot beat drums and bob its head.

Kapur programmed the robot to play East Indian beats to compliment the sounds of Karmetik. Other composers are writing new software that will teach his robot different rhythms and challenge the machine's design.

"I need somebody to break it so I can make it better," explained Kapur, who completed his undergrad degree in computer science at Princeton before coming to UVic in 2004. Kapur founded the MISTIC collective and concert series on campus.

MISTIC (an acronym for Music Intelligence and Sound Technology Centre — though the university hasn't officially reorganized it as a centre yet) is a collective of music technology students and professors who, at their annual concerts, push the boundaries of musical performances.

This year one of the composers will perform in absentia, having sent his music electronically to the collective. Sounds will be represented visually on screens behind the performers by live video DJs.

Kapur is catching international attention for the work he's done while at UVic.

"He energized the program," said Andrew Schloss, one of Kapur's doctoral advisers and a fellow composer who will also be performing on Thursday. "He's pushing [music technology] into the mainstream."

A film crew from the Knowledge Network will be at the concert to collect footage for a documentary on music technology, which Kapur has been interviewed for.

In Canada, only UVic and McGill offer undergraduate degrees in music technology. Here, students mix courses in computer science, engineering and music to get the distinction.

"It's unusual to have ongoing collaboration between three departments," said Schloss. "People get so into what they're doing that they don't necessarily know what's going on in other departments."

In the new year, Kapur will take his robot to India and Singapore before moving to L.A. for a teaching job at the California Institute of the Arts, where he will teach students to write software for the robot.

JOSH SZCZEPANOWSKI PHOTO

Ajay Kapur's 12-armed bandmate never misses practice and helped Kapur earn his doctorate.

UVic burlesque dancers bring the circus for charity

PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES SYKES

Jade Owen (left) and Heather Dixon founded the Vintage Dance Club.

What: *Travelling Caravan*
When: Tues. Dec. 4 @ 8 p.m.
Where: Victoria Event Centre
How much: $8 ($10 at the door)

Deb Daudin

Hold onto your corsets — the UVic Vintage Dance Club is presenting *Travelling Caravan*, a potpourri of circus acts, live music and scantily-clad burlesque dancers.

In the past, UVic students Heather Dixon and Jade Owen looked for a club on campus where they could just get out and dance for fun. They didn't find what they wanted among the existing student clubs, so this year they decided to start their own. They co-founded the Vintage Dance Club, a club that makes its mission to provide a different kind of outlet for women who want to dance — in burlesque fashion.

Characteristically, burlesque is a form of entertainment adapted from vaudeville and typical of the silent film era. Today, it's experiencing a renaissance as a form of entertainment that empowers women while being amusing and topical.

"It's all about body image and being able to express ourselves," Dixon said about the form of dance.

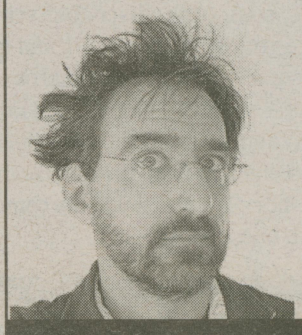
Even with a club, Dixon and Owen weren't satisfied with twice-weekly practices. They wanted to plan some kind of event that would be fun, both for performers and spectators. They wanted to have a benefit performance and donate the proceeds from the show to a worthy cause. Owen chose PEERS as that cause, the Victoria organization that empowers and educates women, especially young teens, about the hazards of working in prostitution.

The ladies have only been practising together since September, and they didn't have enough time to put together a complete show of their own choreographies, so they came up with the idea of putting on a show that would allow them to invite different artists to come and perform as well.

Apart from the six girls from the Vintage Dance Club, there will be jugglers and gymnasts as well as a local vaudeville group, the Slut Revolvers. Two live bands will play during the evening. But the top bill among the invitees will be well-known Victoria dancer Bettina May, the 2006 Monday Magazine readers' Favourite Dancer.

"We're not actually stripping," Dixon said of the six-girl Vintage Club troop, "but don't worry, there will be lots of sequins and corsets! Bettina, on the other hand, will likely be peeling off a little more."

Having a bad hair day, on campus?



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Even all-star cast can't save this film

What: *Before the Devil Knows You're Dead*
Where: Vic Theatre
When: Nov. 30 - Dec. 6 @ 7 & 9 p.m.
How much: $8.50 ($7 for students)

Will Johnson

Sidney Lumet is a living legend.

The director has been making movies for almost 60 years. Born in 1924, he is responsible for favourites including *12 Angry Men*, *Dog Day Afternoon* and *The Verdict*. In 2005, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Oscars.

It's no surprise that Lumet amassed an impressive lineup for his latest film, *Before the Devil Knows You're Dead*. Philip Seymour Hoffman and Ethan Hawke star as Andy and Hank Hansen, brothers who plan to rob their parents' jewelry store. Albert Finney appears as their father, and Marisa Tomei rounds out the cast as Andy Hansen's wife.

Unfortunately, Lumet never really evolved past the '70s — he delivers an awkward, clunky and cliché-ridden movie that seems to have nothing new to offer to the heist genre. With overbearing music, clumsy plot construction and mind-numbing dialogue, Lumet's skills have seen better days.

To be fair, he was working from an awful script. According to the Internet Movie Database, Kelly Masterson has never written a feature film before. She makes attempts at flair and idiosyncrasy, like a villain who addresses everyone as Chico, but for the most part her dialogue is banal.

Lumet tries to make up for this shortcoming by filling scenes with dramatic "aha!" moments and music that belongs in an old-school cop drama. But these only serve to highlight how ordinary and slow-paced this movie is.

The biggest faux pas of the movie, however, is that it reveals the outcome of the robbery moments into the film, effectively killing all suspense for the next hour. The film then careens randomly through the past and future. This technique has worked well for a number of recent movies — *21 Grams* or *Babel* — but falls flat here.

Hoffman, as always, is a revelation. Acting as the brains of the operation, he expertly manipulates and controls the people around him — especially his younger brother, Hank. In the most memorable scene of the movie, Hoffman has a silent mental breakdown by slowly trotting around his house and carefully, deliberately destroying the things around him. Watching his cold, calculated character slowly deteriorate into a raging, psychopathic killer is stunning. Hoffman is a professional and continues to do captivating work.

> Unfortunately, Lumet never really evolved past the '70s.

Hawke, Finney and Tomei — who have all won or been nominated for Acadamy Awards — are wasted in the movie. Hawke is the idiot punching bag, Finney is the grieving father, and Tomei is the token half-naked beauty that has little more to do than a string of sex scenes and a bit of crying.

In a rapidly changing industry, filmmakers need to be constantly reinventing themselves and their subject matter to keep pace with their market. While some may hail Lumet as a visionary and a master craftsperson, he still has a lot of catching up to do.

Local band goes digital

What: Italian Edition album pre-release concert
When: Fri., Nov. 30
Where: Sugar Nightclub
How much: $7

Alex Grant

PHOTO COURTESY OF CALEB J. BYERS / THENUMBER.CA

Local indie band Italian Edition will release their next album online.

It's the classic heartbreaker: a broke indie band plays a show to raise money for recording their new album, depending solely on their fans for support. The thing that makes Italian Edition's story different is that their album will be available to their fans for free once it's released.

Inspired by Radiohead's new album success with *In Rainbows* (available by donation on their website), Italian Edition will offer access to its next album online upon its release.

In going digital, not only does Italian Edition get an obvious publicity boost, but they are backing their philosophical and moral stances.

"Vinyl eroticism has to disappear if it's just going to fuck up the planet," lead singer Jake Derricourt said. "If musicians who are generally more progressive in their mindsets don't get behind it, who will?"

Not only is online music the best way of getting the music out to the public in an environmentally sound way, it can be very profitable as well.

"If people really love your music, they'll put the money into it," Derricourt said. "It's also so much easier for artists to control their music … there's no middle man."

Italian Edition formed at UVic during a math class in 2005, and ever since then they've been a prominent force in the musical community, especially the all-ages scene.

"What's good about Victoria is that it's so small here, so people don't get caught up with the business side," Derricourt said. "It's all about the music."

Though Derricourt dubs Italian Edition as a West Coast progressive indie rock band, he feels a bit of disenchantment toward the indie scene today.

"It's become a little inflated and something new needs to come in to refresh it," said Derricourt. "The nice thing about music is that a new band can come around and totally shake things up."

What exactly is "West Coast" progressive indie rock?

"It's the laid-back lifestyle, and classic rock is a big [influence] too," Derricourt said. "You go to the East Coast and they're trying to be edgy and ahead of the times. The philosophy behind the music here is more traditional."

Aside from frequently headlining their Victoria home base, Italian Edition hits up Vancouver quite a bit as well, though their experience there has been hit-and-miss.

"At one show, there was some cracked-out clown on the street making balloons," Derricourt fondly remembered. "He ended up making more money than we did."

Does the band see a West Coast progressive movement happening here in Victoria?

"To be part of a movement means you'll get labelled with three definitions," Derricourt said. "It's more a collective appreciation for what we do and [the bands] working together."

Italian Edition has been featured on MuchMusic's *Going Coastal* show. They've also played with Tokyo Police Club, and their last EP, *The Fable of the Mouse and the Frog*, has gained loads of radio play. The future is definitely bright for this local group.

TOP TEN

FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 27, 2007

1. SOUNDTRACK
   I'm Not There (Columbia)
2. BARMITZVAH BROTHERS *
   Let's Express Our Motives: An Album Of Underappreciated Job Songs (Weewerk)
3. MUSCLES
   Guns Babes Lemonade (Modular)
4. VARIOUS
   David Shrigley's Worried Noodles (Tomlab)
5. M.I.A.
   Kala (XL)
6. HOLY FUCK *
   LP (Young Turks/XL)
7. GRIZZLY BEAR
   Friend EP (Warp)
8. BEIRUT
   The Flying Club Cup (Ba Da Bing!)
9. CRIME IN STEREO
   Crime In Stereo Is Dead (Bridge9)
10. BOYS NOIZE
    Oi Oi Oi (Turbo/Last Gang)

* Canadian artist † local artist

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Hear the weekly top ten on Charts and Graphs every Thursday at 3:00 PM on CFUV 101.9FM.

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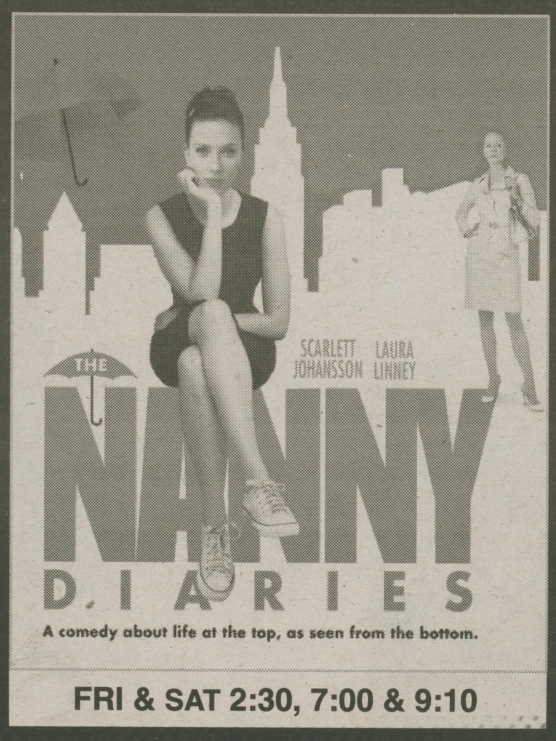
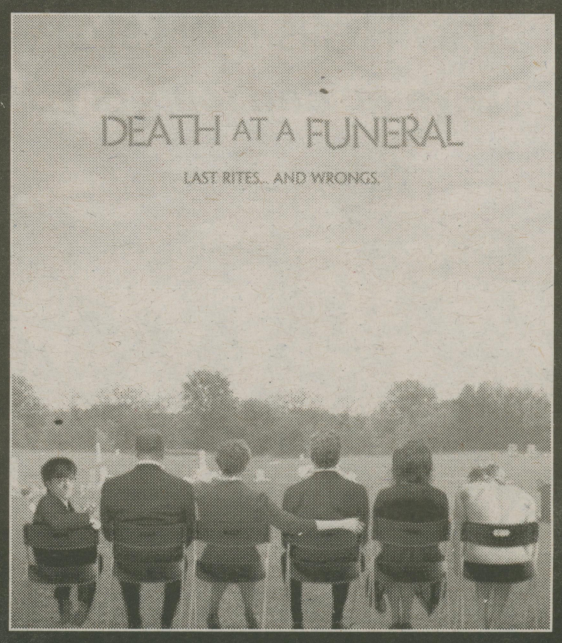


FRI & SAT 2:30, 7:00 & 9:10



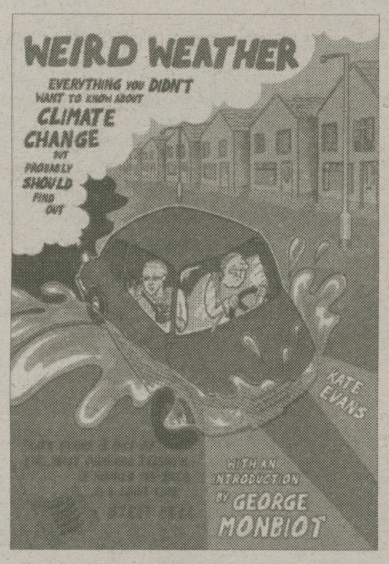
SUN 2:30, 7:00 & 9:00
MON 7:00 & 9:00

BOOK REVIEWS

A secret sweeps the nation's fate

Weird Weather: Everything You Didn't Want To Know About Climate Change But Probably Should Find Out
Kate Evans
Groundwood
96 pages

Charlotte Barrow



"This isn't global warming. It's climate chaos." So begins Kate Evans' comic journey through the catastrophe of climate change.

Sourcing science journals, newspapers, and everything else under the sun, the book includes proof of change, sources of greenhouse gas emissions and weird weather patterns. An overview follows of human contributions to the problem. At the core is burning fossil fuels and the extraction of vast amounts of oil.

Driving the plot are three characters embodying aspects of us all: the knowledge-thirsty scientist, the idealistic child, and the greedy professional refusing to trade personal luxuries for the planet's survival.

Weird Weather suggests how to reverse our destructive impact on the planet, including eating locally, riding a bike, not flying and restricting electricity availability.

The reader is swamped with facts. Did you know, for example, that if we don't change our ways we'll see between a third and a half of all land animals and plants become extinct in our lifetimes?

But it isn't only gloomy forecasts. Plenty of comic relief counters the heavy subject matter. While at times overly busy, the black-and-white inked cartoons are colourful enough to make the science easily understood. Written clearly and satirically, the book is classified as juvenile literature, but also benefits an older audience.

Weird Weather is a valuable resource in confronting climate change. Never losing its comic edge, it urges each of us to "look inside yourself. It's time to take control of our fate."

One family triumphs over military tragedy

The Long Walk Home: Paul Franklin's Journey From Afghanistan
Liane Faulder
Brindle & Glass
192 pages

Sam VanSchie

Kandahar City, Afghanistan is a risky place to be. The Canadian military is constantly threatened with planned attacks by suicide bombers and other danger. But for Paul Franklin and the thousands of soldiers who have served there, it becomes a way of life.

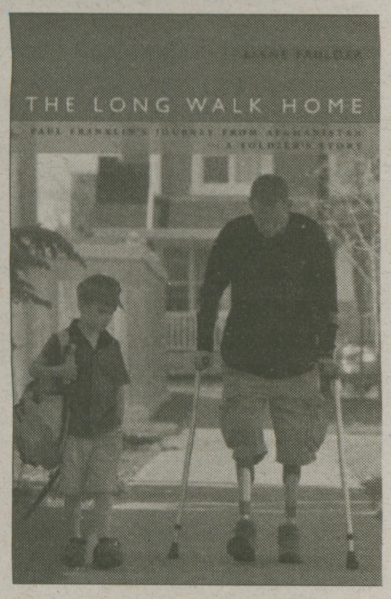
In *The Long Walk Home*, journalist Liane Faulder tells how one Edmonton family is changed when, on Jan. 15, 2006, a member of the Taliban drove his taxi, himself and seven 102-millimetre rockets into the side of the vehicle that Paul, a paramedic, was driving. The impact killed Canadian diplomat Glyn Berry, led to the amputation of Paul's legs, and changed the way Canadians viewed their military.

Paul's story of war injury is not unique, but the willingness with which this family shares their emotions is. From the beginning, the Franklins never shied away from the media. And when Faulder proposed writing this book, they happily obliged to extensive interviews, having her present during personal moments and providing many family photos that are peppered throughout the book.

The Franklins are well known in their Edmonton community, one of the most military-friendly cities in Canada. There, Paul is considered a hero.

Even those skeptical of war heroism will find it easy to respect Paul for his determination to win back his old way of life despite the injury. Doctors tell the soldier he will never walk. He proves them wrong, learning to move upright on two prosthetic limbs and arm crutches, less than a year after the attack.

Even after Paul's loss, he and his family still support the military.



Paul's six-year-old son dreams of going overseas to serve his country, and even Paul himself would like to return to the battlegrounds if ever he is well enough.

The Long Walk Home shows the personal side of controversial politics, and how a family pulls together in the face of personal tragedy.

Others' mysteries gripping

A Lifetime of Secrets: A PostSecret Book
Frank Warren
Harpercollins
288 pages

Rachel Wever

There is a man in Maryland to whom many people confess their deepest untold secrets, anonymously by mail.

Frank Warren began PostSecret as a community art project. He asked people to send him their secrets written on four- by six-inch postcards, the only criterium being that the words be true and something the sender had never told anyone.

Three years, 175,000 postcards and four books later, Warren has come to be known as America's most trusted stranger.

His latest PostSecret compilation, *A Lifetime of Secrets*, was released last month. In it, hundreds of secrets in rough chronological order fill the pages in a beautifully arranged and touching sequence. Confessions, desires, regrets and worries of people from every stage of life are told in the most honest way.

Although each postcard is written by a single person, the truths they speak resonate with countless others. In *A Lifetime of Secrets* you can compare postcards written by people of all ages.

One card by a 13-year-old near the beginning of the book expresses a fear that life is passing before their eyes, and a card at the end from an elderly person says simply, "It all passed so quickly."

It is no secret that PostSecret has fast become a phenomenon. PostSecret.com attracts three million visitors per month, making it the largest advertisement-free blog on the web.

In addition to scans of the cards, the blog features e-mailed responses to specific secrets that have touched people's lives. People have even been influenced by PostSecret to think twice about committing suicide, and Frank Warren is a big advocate for Hopeline, 1-800-SUICIDE, which he promotes on the blog.

Not every secret is dark and serious, though. Frank admits that one of the most popular postcards he has received says simply, "I pee in the shower."

A Lifetime of Secrets represents a wide variety of secrets, and for avid PostSecret readers, many of those featured in the book have never before been seen.

An interesting aspect of the PostSecret tradition is the idea that writing down your secret and just leaving it somewhere can help release whatever it was you were holding onto and can perhaps touch another person who might come across it. In fact, it has become popular to write secrets and leave them in new PostSecret books so that whoever buys buys it gets a little something extra.

Reading this book will likely influence you to write your own secrets or just tell them to someone you love. However, I would recommend it to the sentimental and non-sentimental alike. The flow from page to page leads you on a journey of a lifetime.

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Fernwood all-ages community rocks on

Natalie North

ELIZABETH HAMES PHOTO

A hardcore show at James Bay Community Centre gets kids dancing on Sat. Nov. 24.

It's 7:15 p.m. on a Saturday night, and people of all ages are trickling through the double-doors of the James Bay Community Centre for a six-band hardcore rock show.

A 35-kilogram boy mills about the room — in half an hour he'll be standing on a speaker cabinet and feverishly banging his head with his striped hoodie drawn over it. Behind him, a man dons a vest covered entirely in hardcore band patches, a garment that must have taken years of dedicated show-going to produce. There truly are all ages here.

Coming in, we pay admission to the girl beside a sign that says "$8, no box-cutters, no scumbags." Some members of the all-ages scene are still a little shaken after the box-cutters attack that injured seven teens outside the Fernwood Community Centre on Oct. 26. Others call the tension with a lowbrow joke. Most, though, are ready to enjoy a show.

Garret Hohl, promoter and bassist in local band Radiant Citylights, started a Facebook group devoted to the construction of a safe local venue for all-ages shows. The group attracted over 500 members.

"It's just my opinion, but I think [the attack] had a lot to do with the neighbourhood," he said.

Hohl, who says part of his band's motivation for performing is to create a positive environment for kids, explained that most of the all-ages venues downtown are too expensive to perform at. But outside the city core, the public transit is poor.

"I don't think the perfect place can be made, but I'd like to try for something better," said Hohl.

But Troy Lemberg, host of CFUV hardcore show The Action Index, said safety at shows can be maintained with respect, regardless of the neighbourhood.

"I got involved at hardcore shows because there are a lot more kids, but not as many [adults], usually. We all just got involved to help patrol the area and make sure no bad things were happening," said Lemberg. "Usually there are small bands [performing] so a lot of people that come are dedicated to the genre. In [hardcore] there's a lot of straightedge, so a lot of the kids don't drink or do drugs at all. Everyone respects that and doesn't want to let the venue get shut down."

It's easy to see that Lemberg is in his element here. Before the first band, Vile Style, pick up their instruments, Lemberg bustles around the room checking cord connections and chatting with guests. The lights go out and the sound of feedback reverberates throughout the room. The music starts and Lemberg joins the mosh pit in front of the band. A child-like grin illuminates his face as he's swept away in the current of about a dozen kids circling wildly in the unparalleled energy of a live hardcore show. Behind the drum kit hangs a spray painted banner that says "Rad Times."

Between sets, a couple of 14-year-old girls chat in the bathroom about just how rad all-ages shows are.

"The environment's fun," Haileigh Hay said with a smile.

"The music's good and you meet so many people at shows," added her friend Kim Penney.

The two girls have been coming to shows for the last year and both agree that Conversation — a band well-versed in all-ages shows — is their favourite act. Hay and Penney were at the Fernwood Community Centre the night of the slashing. The girls, like most people who attend local all-ages shows, believe the attack was an isolated event and isn't a sign of an unsafe scene.

Alain Champagne, bassist for Quick, Said the Bird, recently returned to Victoria after touring and found that he prefers playing all-ages to bar shows, because the people that attend all-ages shows are there for the music, not just to drink. He doesn't see much of a problem with the way that all-ages shows are currently run.

"A lot of people are already working toward a new venue, and I think it's a good idea, but I don't know how necessary it is," said Champagne. "And if they're going to raise security at the shows, they might as well raise the security on the streets because that's where [the slashing] happened."

"If the kids weren't at the shows," Champagne continues, "they'd be out causing trouble. I don't want to stereotype the kids or anything, but coming to a show is a great way to get kids off the street."

> "If the kids weren't at the shows, they'd be out causing trouble."
> *- Alain Champagne*

Hohl thinks of all-ages shows a little like skate-parks in that way: both give kids a positive activity to get involved in.

"[All-ages shows] are a nice place for escape, community, friendship," said Hohl. "They create a positive place where some kids don't have [one]."

All-ages shows are also important for new bands.

"It's definitely a good platform to start on for getting out there and getting people to recognize you," said Hohl, attributing his band's success to playing an all-ages show with Counting Heartbeats.

Throughout the night, the energy in the room never waivers, even into the fourth hour of performances. Fans tonight seem just as passionate about the music as the show's organizer, who rarely breaks even at these events after paying the bands and renting the venue.

"I'm going out of my pocket on this," said Lemberg, smiling. "I don't care — I'm going to have a good time."

Hemp could change farming

Matthew Kemshaw

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

Hempology 101 founder Ted Smith has many uses for the weed.

It's an appealing vision — one where birds fly free from worry and bees suck contentedly on a vast array of biological diversity, where rural farmers gain control of their land and don't need to worry about their own fertility being affected by bags of chemicals and fertilizers.

That's what the production of industrial hemp could mean.

Hemp was grown during the Second World War when traditional sources of fibre were unavailable, but was criminalized in the 1938 Opium and Narcotic Drug Act. After research in the 1990s concluded that industrial hemp could be grown with very low concentrations of the infamous delta-9 tetrohydro-cannibinol (THC), Canadian governments decided in 1998 to legalize it.

According to Health Canada, fibre from the stalks can be used in making paper, textiles, rope, twine and construction materials. Grain from industrial hemp can be used in food products, cosmetics, plastics and fuel. The plant grows best in rotation with other food crops and out-competes other weeds in the garden (acting as an effective weed suppressor).

UVic Hempology 101 founder Ted Smith said at a recent club meeting that social and environmental health stand to gain the most from the legalization of hemp, adding he hoped farmers would use it to develop soil ecology and improve productivity upon marginal lands.

"We're combining environmental with economic realities," he said. With potential to reduce the use of chemicals and provide a new local source for many building materials, hemp could theoretically be used to bolster both agricultural and industrial economies.

While hemp can be grown containing only 0.3 per cent of that psychoactive substance THC (meaning one would have to smoke an entire field to get high), most banks and businesses are cautious about backing industrial-scale growth.

With its potential to recover marginal lands, hemp could be used as a sword in the duel between rural communities and agribusiness. By helping to restore fertility to the land, the plant could wean farmers from chemical dependence and seeds from huge corporations.

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TELEVISION

Friday Night Lights star has B.C. roots

David Karp

Taylor Kitsch was living the Canadian dream. The B.C. boy, who grew up in Kelowna, Port Moody and Anmore, was playing junior hockey for the Langley Hornets and hoped to go pro some day.

That was before the 20-year-old left-winger busted his knee in a game against Coquitlam.

"I was going to hit a guy, and he moved out of the way. He didn't want to take the hit," said Kitsch. "I stopped on a dime and my knee caught an edge in a little rut in the ice. My knee went forward and my skates didn't move."

Now, the 26-year-old Kitsch is living out an American dream on television. He plays Tim Riggins, a high school football player from small-town Texas on *Friday Night Lights*. But in real life, Kitsch didn't like football much.

"I remember going to one practice at my high school and then just quitting after that," said Kitsch. "I just wasn't into it."

Kitsch's route to prime-time television was an unlikely one. With a torn ligament and a shattered hockey dream, Kitsch moved in with his brother at the University of Lethbridge and spent a year taking nutrition and economics courses.

Meanwhile, his mother sent his photos to an agency and landed him a modelling gig in New York with Diesel, a clothing company.

Kitsch dropped out of university and decided to take up acting. There was one problem, however — his contract with Diesel only lasted one week.

PHOTO COURTESY PAUL DRINKWATER / NBC

Taylor Kitsch, 26, plays the town's bad boy wide receiver in the fictive Dillon, Texas.

"I didn't work for 10 months after that. So I was living in [everything from] a subway, to a walk-in closet, to anywhere," Kitsch said. "I lived in Spanish Harlem with no electricity and my best-friend's girlfriend's blow-up mattress was my bed. I don't know how I did any of that shit. I don't even know the mindset that you're in. You just do it."

Kitsch took acting lessons while in the Big Apple. " I was going to class free because I simply didn't have the money," he said. "After I got *Friday Night Lights*, I paid [my acting coach] a good chunk of change — what I owed her — and that was a good feeling."

His newly-acquired acting skills landed him small roles at first. He had a bit-part in *John Tucker Must Die* and fell victim to an reptilian death while joining the mile-high club in *Snakes On a Plane*. Eventually, he landed the role of Riggins in the first season of *Friday Night Lights* in October 2006.

The show, now in its second season, focuses on the Dillon Panthers, a high school football team in the fictional town of Dillon, Texas. Riggins, the strong, silent type, is one of the team's receivers — at least he was before he got cut for skipping practices and boozing.

Riggins is the town's bad boy, going through drama last season when he slept with his best friend's girlfriend while his friend was in the hospital, paralyzed from the waist down. But Kitsch thinks everyone, including himself, can identify with the character.

"I really do think anyone can relate to this guy in regards to how he internalizes certain things," Kitsch said. "Maybe not to the degree of Riggins, but everyone I know, or come across in my life, has some kind of vice or hasn't dealt with something that has shaped who they are."

Last season, Riggins tried to reconnect with his absent father, something Kitsch identifies with first-hand.

"The father figure — lack thereof — I can relate to," he said. "I had my older brothers to lean on and I had a guardian who was really influential in terms of a lot of characteristics I have now. But more or less he was in and out of my life."

The role has helped Kitsch deal with other issues in his life he would have otherwise ignored.

"You dig inside to parts of you that maybe you wouldn't dig into doing any other job. It's such a self-exploration," he said. "You try and break

> Kitsch dropped out of university and decided to take up acting.

Riggins down to understand how he would deal with certain circumstances; you're just making these unconscious decisions and they come out, and it's like 'Holy shit, that right there is something I can look at too.' "

Acting helped Kitsch cope with a tough break-up, which was on his mind while shooting the upcoming movie *Gospel Hill* during the summer.

"I was in such a fucked-up mindset that I don't even remember half the scenes I did on *Gospel Hill*," he said. "Being in *Gospel Hill* let me escape from the bullshit of the break-up for at least that time being. Because if you get a lot of spare time, it just eats you."

On *Friday Night Lights*, the show's writers give Kitsch a lot of freedom to explore himself through his character.

"Fifty per cent of what I say is improv — maybe more," said Kitsch. "That's the freedom we have. We don't rehearse."

Living in Austin, Texas eight months a year to film the show and living the on-screen life of a small-town Texan may seem challenging for a former B.C. hockey player, but Kitsch said he's starting to feel at home.

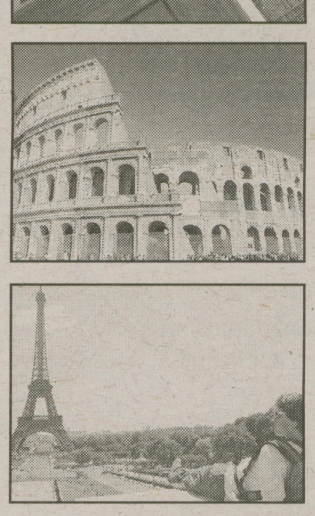
"Austin is kind of like Vancouver. It's not like any city in Texas," he said. "It's very liberal; it's very free. The people are great, and they're genuine people."

People are starting to take note of the show in Texas, but it's taking time to catch on in Canada.

"No one really knows who I am in Vancouver — last time I was there, anyways. I guess we'll see in December when I get back home," said Kitsch, who hasn't been home since May.

And while Kitsch misses his family and friends, he's loving every minute of his time on *Friday Night Lights*.

"I've played two tools in a row. I've played a kid from South Carolina [in *Gospel Hill*] and then a kid from Dillon, Texas, a small butt-fuck town," said Kitsch. "But it's funny, man. It's nuts how life plays itself out."



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AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

The UVic hockey club, reigning BCIHL champs, took to home ice for the first time this season against the University College of Fraser Valley Cascades on Nov. 23 and 24.

Hockey club victorious in home opener

Jared Featherstone

UVic's hockey club proved why they are the reigning British Columbia Intercollegiate Hockey League (BCIHL) champs when they took on the University College of Fraser Valley Cascades at the Ian Stewart Complex on Nov. 23 and 24. The first game saw the Vikes demolish the Cascades in a 6-2 win; the next night UVic skated away with a 4-1 victory.

The double-header showcased the first- and second-ranked teams in the BCIHL. Fraser Valley boasted a perfect record going into the weekend, with the Vikes six points behind. The standings may have forecast Cascades victory, but UVic put up a great fight.

The Nov. 23 game began with the raising of last year's championship banner. Last year's Vikes squad took the championship after being undefeated throughout the season and playoffs.

Fraser Valley wasted no time, scoring 13 seconds into the first frame. Rob Vos scored off a neat pass from behind the net, giving the Cascades a quick 1-0 lead. But from there, it was all UVic. Five unanswered tallies through the next 55 minutes led the Vikes to the 6-2 victory.

The high score did not come easily for the Vikes, who were forced to work hard for their two points.

"Last year in the playoffs, [Fraser Valley] wasn't supposed to make it to the finals. But they made it all the way to the finals and proved themselves to the whole league," said UVic coach Harry Schamart. "They're a relentless club, so we had to match their intensity and work ethic in order to come out with the win."

Justin Cormier, Steve Price and Brett Campbell each registered a goal and an assist for the win.

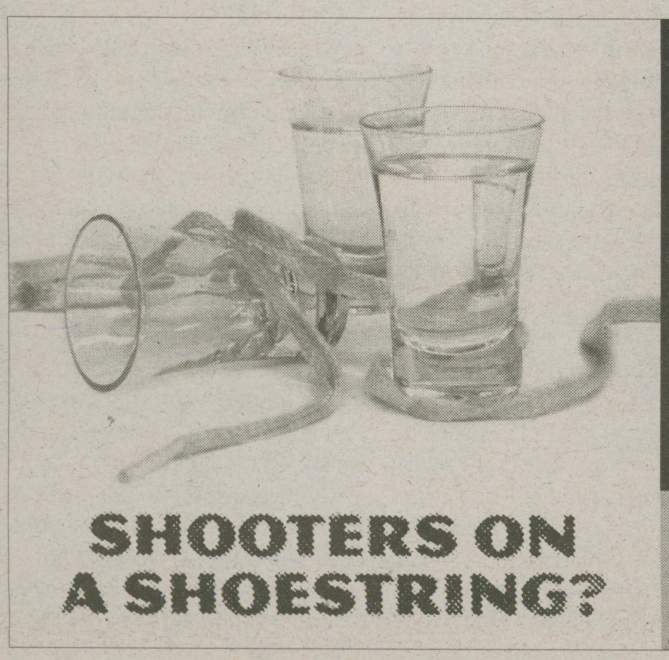
The Nov. 24 game showed more of the same. Led by captain Dan Birch's two goals, UVic stormed past the Cascades 4-2 in an intense and gritty sequel to the previous night's contest.

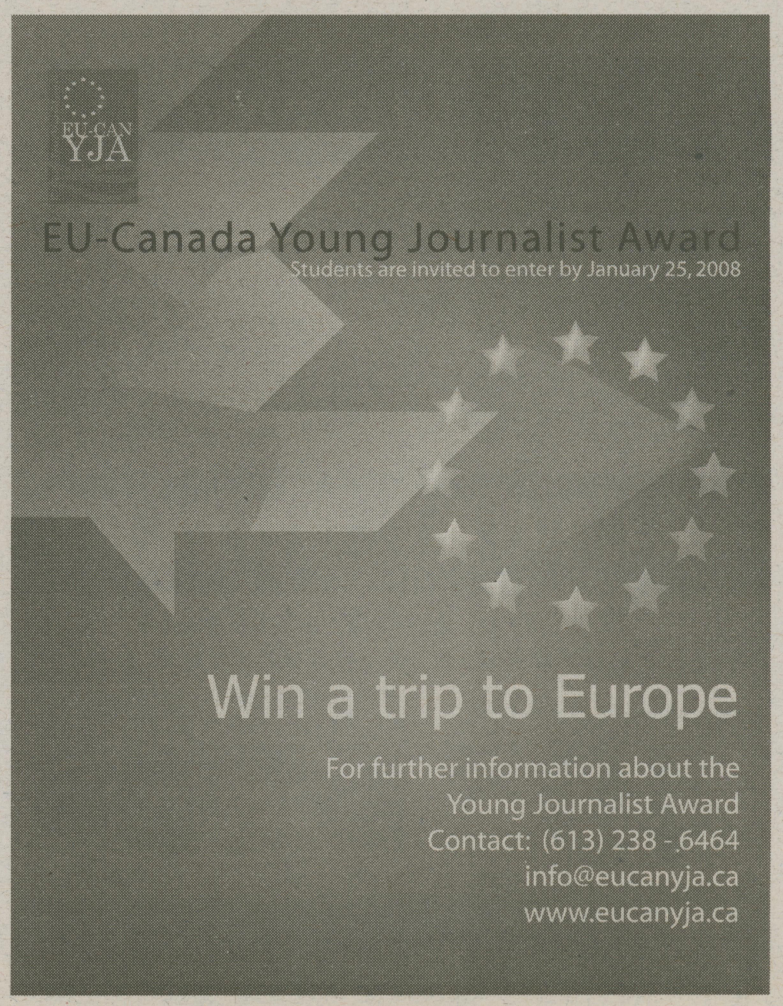
In the third period, tensions finally boiled over as the crowd was treated to a tilt between UVic's Kit Matkaluk and Fraser Valley's Kyle Krunick. With both players ejected from the game, the Cascades fed off that energy and scored a quick goal shortly after. But it wasn't enough — UVic hung on to capture their second win of the weekend.

The wins are good news not only for the Vikes, but for the budding league as a whole. Schamart said the goal of BCIHL is to "create a competitive hockey league that British Columbia universities will recognize and support."

UVic remains in second place but is now two points behind the Cascades, which should make for an interesting second half to the season as the two teams battle for top spot.

The next Vikes home games will take place at the Ian Stewart Complex on Jan. 25 and Jan. 26.





UPCOMING GAMES

MEN'S RUGBY
Vikes vs. James Bay
Barnard Cup
MacDonald Park
Dec.1 @ 2:45 p.m.

WOMEN'S RUGBY
Vikes vs. Cowichan
Wallace Field
Dec. 1 @ 11:30 p.m.

MEN'S FIELD HOCKEY
Vikes vs. VRC Jokers
Field Hockey Pitch
Dec. 2 @1:30 p.m.

VIKES SCOREBOARD

MEN'S FIELD HOCKEY
Nov. 25 Vikes 4 India Club 2

MEN'S HOCKEY
Nov. 23 Vikes 6 UCFV 2
Nov. 24 Vikes 4 UCFV 1

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Nov. 23 Vikes 85 UCFV 79
Nov. 24 Vikes 65 UCFV 63

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Nov. 23 Vikes 82 UCFV 67
Nov. 24 Vikes 70 UCFV 59

Women win big over Cascades

Gemma Karstens-Smith

PHOTO COURTESY OF LIGHTCRAFTERS PHOTOGRAPHY

Vikes guard Michelle Lee dribbles down the court during a game against Fraser Valley on Nov. 24.

UVic's women's basketball team banded together to sweep a series against the University College of Fraser Valley Cascades on Nov. 23 and 24.

"We made the same mistakes," said Fraser Valley coach Al Tuchscherer of his team's performance over the two games. "We didn't rebound. We turned the ball over."

On Nov. 23, the Vikes downed the Cascades 82-67. Fifth-year guard Ryan McKay continued to lead the team in scoring, putting up 27 points, while second-year guard Jane Anholt sunk a trio of three-pointers in a career-best performance of 15 points.

The Vikes won 70-59 the next night in a match that opened with even play. Both teams fought for the lead through the first quarter, which ended tied up at 19. UVic was able to take the lead in the second quarter by pressuring the Cascades defence and forcing turnovers. But fouls quickly became an issue. In the first 20 minutes of play, the team had 12 fouls, and four players had two apiece.

"We have an opportunity to improve our defence with discipline," said UVic coach Brian Cheng.

The Vikes were ahead 35-28 going into the second half. McKay restarted the action with a bang when she scored a jumper 17 seconds in. She ended the game with 21 points, her ninth 20-plus point performance of the season.

UVic forced the Cascades to work for their points as the shot clock ticked down, leaving Fraser Valley to toss up wishes in the dying seconds. The Vikes worked to find the open shot, which often came from third-year forward Kayla Dykstra. She scored 10 of her 17 points of the game in the second half.

But Fraser Valley refused to give up. When the inside shots wouldn't sink, they moved out of the key. With just over four minutes left in the game, the Cascades had managed to whittle down UVic's lead to three points. The Vikes answered the challenge with 11 points and a huge steal by guard Anholt.

"The intensity that both teams played with and the focus that both teams played at was sporadic," said Cheng. He also noted that his team gave a good performance against the more senior Cascades. "It was a great accomplishment for a young squad."

The weekend wins move UVic into fourth place in the competitive Pacific Division.

The Vikes will head to UBC to take on the T-Birds on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. UBC are ranked second nationally.

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Canadian medalists to receive money for success

Dan Plouffe
THE FULCRUM

OTTAWA (CUP) — The Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) has unveiled a new program that will give cash rewards to Canadian athletes who win medals at Olympic Games.

Hopefuls for the 2008 Beijing Games podium sitting amidst the press conference audience broke into applause as COC President Michael Chambers announced that a gold medal would earn them $20,000, a silver $15,000 and a bronze $10,000 starting next summer.

Chambers called the decision to join countries such as Australia, the United States, England and France in paying their Olympic champions an "adjustment" in the COC's mandate.

"It's been a topic of discussion I think for my entire 23 years with the COC," Chambers said.

Athletes who achieve a top-five result at world championships in the first two years of an Olympic cycle, or top-four in the third year, will still earn $5,000, similar to the funding formula previously in place.

Those who win multiple medals will get multiple rewards, and each individual in team sports qualifies. The COC estimates the total payout will average $1.3 million a year.

Adam van Koeverden, winner of 2004 Olympic kayak gold and bronze medals, was thankful for the support since many athletes and their families spend so much to train and compete, but he quickly noted the extra dollars won't really act as an added motivational tool.

"There's no possible price you can put on an Olympic gold medal — I wouldn't trade it for $20,000 or $20 million," the current K-1,500-metre world champion said. "I didn't cross the finish line in Athens and say, 'Alright, I'm going to be a millionaire!' I have enough incentive and we all have enough incentive already."

One Beijing medal favourite who'd welcome the financial reward is Sherraine Schalm. The 2006 Fencing World Cup overall champion for épée is currently living in a "1960s former communist bloc"-style apartment building in Budapest, Hungary.

Schalm needs to live in Europe in order to train against the world's best competition and in Hungary — unlike her previous stop in France where she worked two jobs — she is able to live off of the funds she receives from Canada.

"It's not the most exciting and beautiful place to live, and I did have a neighbour try to commit suicide by jumping out of his window within the month of my living there," Schalm said, noting the man was wrestled to safety in the end. "I was like, 'Is this really what I want to do in these next few years?' There were some hard times, however the city itself is beautiful and my training partners are all very keen to train with me."

In the last two Olympics, Schalm failed to make the competition's round-of-16, but this time she's poised for a top finish following her World Cup triumph and Canada's first-ever World Championships medal, a bronze in 2005.

"This is the first time I've really felt calmly confident going into the Olympic Games. Before that, I was always asking 'what if' questions. I think experience, age and life troubles can teach you a lot," Schalm said. "I just have to give the best of myself and I truly believe that the best of myself is the best in the world."

Schalm was just one of 85 athletes in Ottawa for the COC's Olympic Excellence Series who Chambers hopes to meet next summer, cheque in hand, "as our flag is raised many, many times in Beijing."

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Fraser Valley forces Vikes to work for wins

Gavin Day

They weren't pretty wins, but they were wins nonetheless.

The Vikes men's basketball team was forced to work hard for their pair of victories over the University College of the Fraser Valley Cascades on Nov. 23 and 24.

On Nov. 23, UVic was trailing 36-31 at halftime but were able to rally back for the 85-79 victory.

The next night was eerily similar as a sloppy first-half performance put the Vikes behind 41-38 going into the third quarter. But once again the team was able to get things together for a close 65-63 win.

The Vikes performance in the first 20 minutes of the first game was less than stellar. They shot a mere 39 per cent and turned the ball over at the wrong times.

Coach Craig Beaucamp didn't know how they weren't trailing by more at halftime.

"Somehow miraculously we were down only five at the half," he said. "We should have been dead and buried."

The Vikes found their stride in the second half. They were quickly able to close the deficit and, with just over a minute left in the third quarter, Mike Hull made two free throws to give the Vikes a 54-53 lead. They did not trail again.

In the fourth quarter, Ryan McKinnon widened UVic's gap by sinking back-to-back three-pointers. Brandon Dunlop hit a three of his own with a minute-and-a-half left in the game to seal the victory.

WILLIE LI PHOTO

Jeff Cullen makes a pass during a Nov. 24 game against the Fraser Valley Cascades. The Vikes won 65-63.

On Nov. 24, UVic jumped out to an early 12-5 lead over the Cascades. After a very up-tempo start, they made several mental mistakes, allowing the Cascades to go on a 7-0 run to take the lead. Still, UVic managed to end the quarter with a 18-15 lead.

The second quarter saw even play, but the Cascades were able to hit some key shots. With three-and-a-half minutes left in the half, fourth-year Cascades forward Dwayne Harrison came off the bench to hit a crucial three, giving Fraser Valley the lead. The Vikes had work to do heading into the second half.

For the second consecutive night, UVic was able to ride a better second half to a victory. The saviour in this game was UVic's offensive rebounding. They were able to prolong their possessions and keep the Cascades on the defensive.

"Those were very important," said Beaucamp. "They extended our possessions. I think [Fraser Valley] only had three possessions in the last two or three minutes."

When fifth-year Cascade Joel Haviland hit a three-pointer with one minute to go, the game was very much up for grabs, with the Vikes up 63-61. Mitch Gudgeon made it a two-possession game after hitting both of his free throws and the Vikes were able to hold on.

There was a little controversy after the game. As the referees were leaving the court Haviland threw the ball from his team's bench toward the officials. One of the officials was struck on the back of the foot. Another official was able to speak with the Cascades coach and calm the situation down. It was unclear whether or not the toss was intentional.

The Vikes visit UBC on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 for their final games of 2007. The Vikes trail UBC by two points in the Pacific Division. Two wins would put UVic in first place heading into the break.

National team to face St. Vincent

Gavin Day

The Canadian men's soccer team continues to ride the wave of momentum created by an impressive semi-final performance at the Gold Cup this past summer.

The rest of the Canadian Soccer Association may be in relative disarray after the recent resignation of CEO Colin Linford, but the national men's team has been playing rather attractive soccer.

On Nov. 20, a group of tired European-based Canadians lost 2-0 to the 2010 World Cup hosts South Africa during a friendly game in Durban, South Africa. Despite the loss the game showed glimmers of hope for what may come.

The preliminary qualifying draw for the 2010 World Cup was held in South Africa on Nov. 25. The draw paired Canada with St. Vincent and the Grenadines in a home-and-away series to take place during June 2008.

The winner of the series will advance to the semi-final round for North and Central American teams where four teams will play home and away in a round robin format. The top two teams in that group will advance to the final round of qualifying where six teams will play another round robin. The top three in that tournament will advance to the World Cup while the fourth-place team will play the fifth-place team from South America to determine who will go to South Africa.

On paper, Canada should easily advance over St. Vincent. However, the representatives from the tiny Caribbean nation have been known to punch well above their weight. They have advanced to the semi-final rounds of qualifying on four consecutive occasions.

Canada has not been to the World Cup since 1986 and was eliminated in the semi-final round in the past two qualifying tournaments.

Should Canada advance past St. Vincent, they will most likely face a very strong group of Mexico, Honduras and Jamaica. Four years ago, Canada had arguably the toughest group when they played Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras.

However, this time out, the Canadians have had some very good results against regional opponents and there is a sense of optimism that this team could turn a few heads when qualifying begins.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

- Population is 109,000
- Capital city is Kingstown
- Comprised of more than 30 islands in the Caribbean
- Banana production is largest industry
- Currency is East Caribbean dollar

Source: St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ministry of Tourism and Culture

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UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 30 (FRI)

Why don't more people report violence to the police?
12:30 - 1:30 pm
SUB 110B (off of Upper Lounge)
Join us to talk about why the majority of people who have experienced sexualized violence don't report the incidents to the police. What are the barriers? How does this affect society's reaction to violence? What can we do about it?
Info: 472-4388

T-Shirt Painting
1:30 - 4:30 pm
SUB Banner Room (downstairs)
While the act of creating a shirt can function as a personal catharsis, the collective display of the shirts is a political action conveying the epidemic of violence against women. We will provide t-shirts and basic materials to decorate the t-shirts. Completed shirts will be displayed at the UVic memorial for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women on December 4th.
Info: 472-4388

UVic Idol Grande Finale
7 pm doors open (8 pm start)
SUB, Vertigo
$7 at the door or $5 in advance.
You don't want to miss this!

Revolutionary Cyborg wedding band mobile unit
8 pm
Camas Bookstore: 2590 Quadra
They've been called "too political", "dangerous subversives", and "real-world challenged". But also "nothing comparable", "a force for good." The Mobile Unit of the Revolucionary Cyborg Wedding Band has been invited to spread some propaganda with their hip-hop cyborg songs. All ages.
Speaker: Sarah Rhude (8 pm)
Info: 386 7197

The Rangzen Show - Free Tibet Benefit Concert
Doors Open at 9 pm
Steamer's Pub
Three local Victoria bands will play at Steamers Pub in support of a freeTibet. This event is hosted by the UVic chapter of Students for a Free Tibet. Bands are:
AIN'T DEAD YET - foot stompin', knee slappin, old-time bluegrass
DUBTET - live worldbeat dub
MARIE PERRY - alternative folk-rock. Minimum Donation $7 in advance, or $10 @ the door. Tickets at Lyle's Place, and at the SFT table in the Student Union Building during the week before the show.
Info: 213-9486

DECEMBER 4 (TUE)

Pyramid Outside Maclaurin
11:30 - 12:30
Memorial for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women Classes and exams at UVic are cancelled from 11:30am - 12:30pm to enable students, staff and faculty to attend. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. This year's memorial will feature several speakers addressing the issue of violence against women, a moment of silence to honour the memory of the 14 women murdered at l'Ecole Polytechnique in 1989, a candle lighting ceremony, and music by the Philomela women's choir and a brass quintet.

DECEMBER 8 (SAT)

Rally and information about the Bear Mountain Interchange
3 pm
Outside Langford City Hall, Goldstream ave.
There is a MARCH being planned to RALLY local support for the treesit, and INFORM the public around the planned development formerly known as "the Bear Mountain Interchange," currently known as Spenser Road Interchange. There will be (hopefully) free food, live entertainment, speakers and workshop. Then a lantern walk (if possible.) Come prepared to show support and have fun.
Info: 472-4388

2007 HOUSING STUDIES ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

CMHC would like to congratulate the 2007 Award winners of $10,000 each!

Sutama Ghosh
(Doctor of Philosophy in Geography, York University)

Miljana Horvat (Doctor of Philosophy in Building Studies, Concordia University); Oyetope Abe (Master of Science, University of Saskatchewan); Joshua Engel-Yan (Master of Applied Science, University of Toronto); and Stephanie Vermeulen (Master in Architecture, University of Waterloo).

To learn more about their work, visit CMHC's website at www.cmhc.ca; search keyword HSAA.

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Housing Studies Achievement Award, offered every second year, rewards academic work, theses or major research papers/projects that represent significant contributions to the understanding and advancement of housing in Canada.

The next cycle of the Housing Studies Achievement Award will be in 2009.

Next time it could be you!

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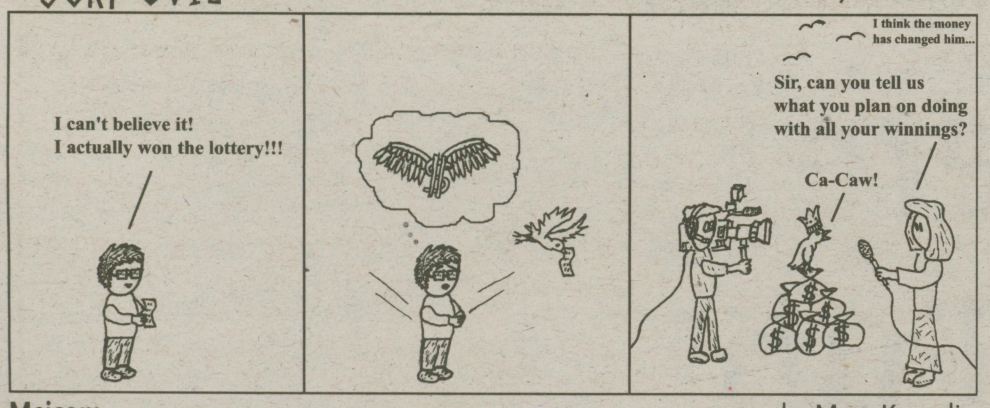
CORP EVIL

by Gord Duff



Meicom

by Mary Karaplis

Three Men in a Boat v.2

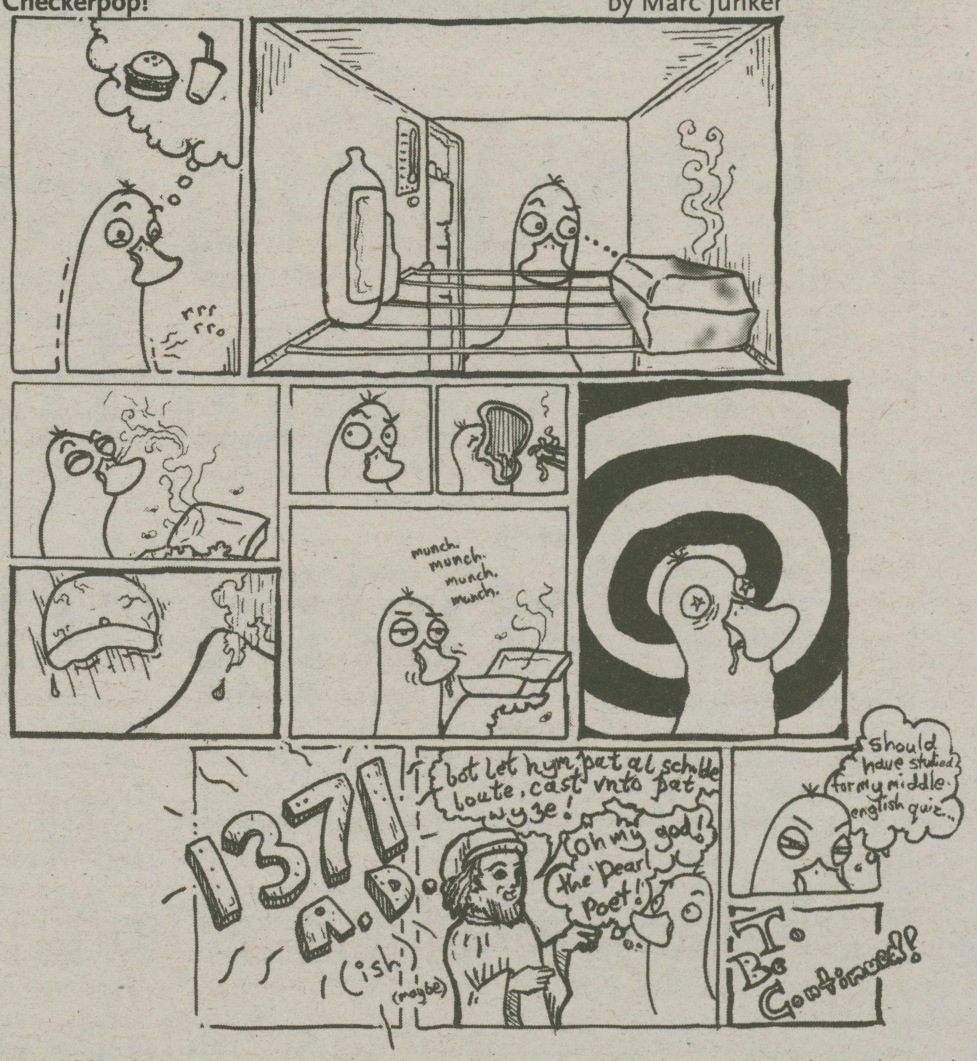
DATING A CAB DRIVER

by David Karp

"I want to take you places you've never been before."

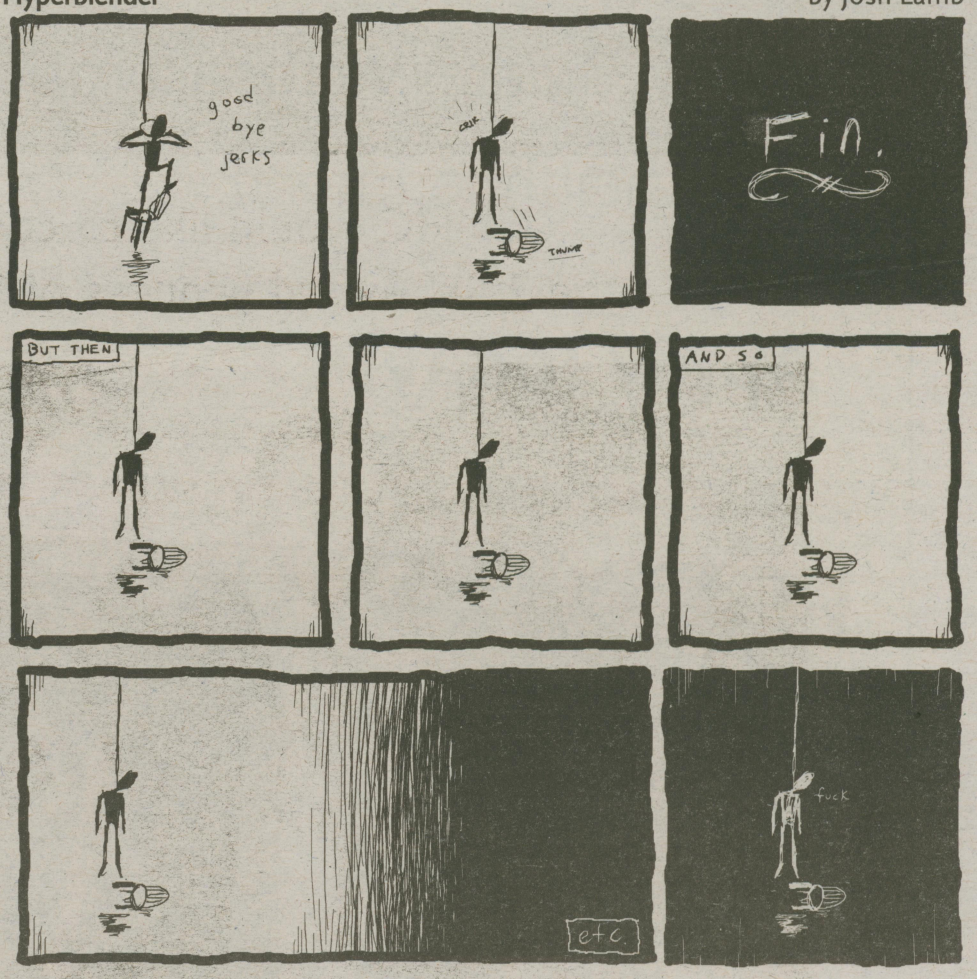
Checkerpop!

by Marc Junker



Hyperblender

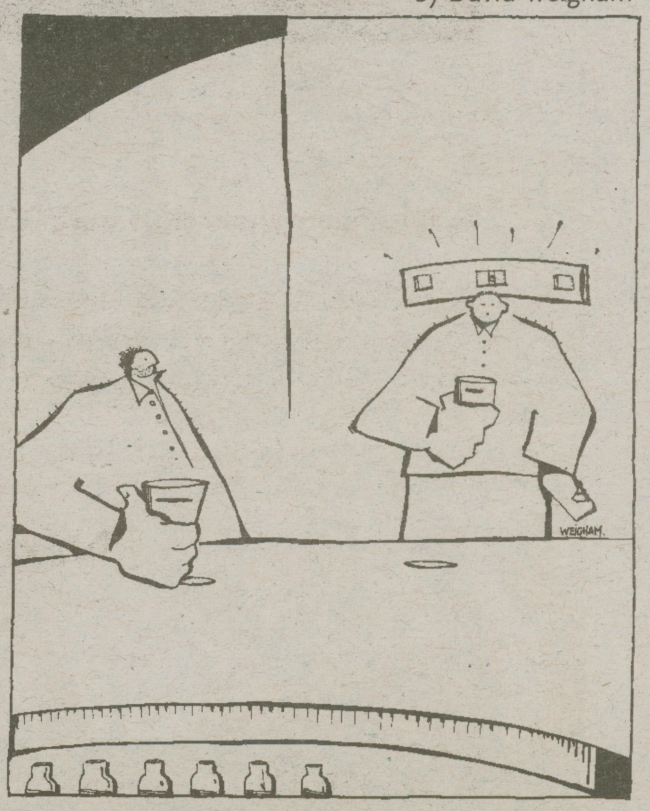
by Josh Lamb



NOOSEHEAD

DAVE

by David Weigham



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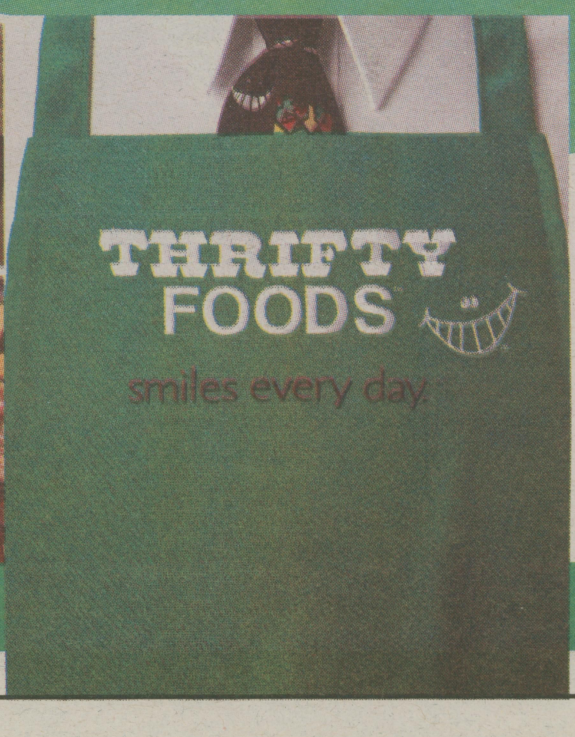

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